

## Big Rocks First RV/LV

**Message:** God should be the most important part of our lives. When we put other things like people, ourselves, our future, pleasure, etc. first, we do not leave room for God in our lives.

**Adaptations:** "Packing Your Bags for Camp",

**Scripture:** Matthew 6:33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Colossians 3:1,2 "Since, then you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

**Characters:** 1 Teacher, 1 Student (also needed: 1 container of water labeled "Thoughts and Actions", 1 container of tiny rocks labeled "Stuff That I Have", 2 containers of small rocks labeled "School and Work", 1 container of medium rocks labeled "Friends", 1 very large rock representing God, 1 clear container)

**Story:**

**Teacher:** Good Morning class! Today we are going to do an experiment to help us realize what is important in our lives. In order to do this, I'm going to need a volunteer (teacher picks out of the crowd a pre-chosen volunteer to be the student).

Thank you, everybody give (name) a round of applause! (the crowd cheers)

**Student:** OK, What do I do?

**Teacher:** Well, we have some containers here that represent various things in our lives; such as the stuff we have, school, work, friends, family, and God.

Go ahead and take some of these things from the containers that represent your life and put them into this container. If they are really important, add a lot, if they are not as important, add less.

**Student:** (Chooses desired amount from all containers and adds to the clear container, then tries to put God [the large rock] in last....but it won't fit.)

**Teacher:** Hmm, that didn't seem to work out very well. Try it again, but this time put the "big rock first" and put all of the other things in afterwards and it should all fit.

**Student:** (Rearranges the clear container to put God in first, and all the other stuff should fit.... topped off with water[thoughts and emotions])

Thanks for helping me to realize what needs to be the most important thing in my life. From now on, I'm going to put God first!

**Conclusion:** There are so many good things in our lives that are very important: our families, our friends, our work at school, sports practices, music lessons... all these things are wonderful and deserve our attention and time. The most important thing

above all these other things is God and our relationship with him. If we put him first in our lives, if we consider him before everything else, then he will take care of the rest of the good things in our lives.

## Black Hole LV

Message: Only God can fill the holes in our life.

Adaptations:

Scripture: Ephesians 3:19 "And to know this love that surpasses knowledge, knowledge that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

Characters: 1 girl, 1 girl narrator, 1 store employee, 1 male narrator, 1 coach, 1 boyfriend, 1 Christian friend,

Supplies: black hole sign, God sign

(The girl realizes that she has a black hole in her life and she wants to fill the hole to be content and happy. The girl tries various things to fill the void...)

Girl: I don't feel happy, I am missing something in my life, I feel like there is a black hole.

Girl: What can I do to fill it? I know. I can buy things!!!! Money and buying stuff makes you happy right?  
(go to the store)

Store employee: Welcome to shopping town how can I help you?

Girl: Well I have this black hole in my life and I know buying and spending money will make me happy. Isn't that right?

Store employee: Yes! The only way to do it is to spend every last penny...then you will be happy I am sure. Just think of all the cool stuff you will have!

Girl: I want an IPOD, new computer, new clothes, (list all of the cool stuff kids would want to buy).  
(Girl picks up items and leaves)

Girl: (goes back home and reflects...then says) I am still not happy. I think I am still missing something.

Girl: I know I will try really hard at basketball and I am going to win awards and championships.  
(pretends to play basketball until coach comes over).

Coach: You did such a great job this year. We won the championship and you won the most valuable player, thanks for breaking all of those school records!

Girl: Thanks coach!  
(Coach leaves)

Girl: I really had a great experience, I made some friends, got an award. But now that it's over I have had some time think and I still feel that gap in my life. I am definitely still missing something.

Girl: I know I will get a boyfriend. Maybe I will even get married!  
(boyfriend come in)

Boyfriend: We have been together for a long time now, do you think we should get married.

Girl: Yes!  
(Boy leaves stage)

Girl: Wow my husband is really great, he does such nice things for me all the time. But you know. I thought he was going to fill the gap in my life...but he didn't. I am out of ideas. I have no idea what is wrong? What could fill the gap?

(Christian friend approaches)  
Christian friend: Hey \_\_\_\_\_! How's it going?

Girl: I have all these great things, money, fame, and a family, but you know what? I still have this gap in my life...something is missing and I can't figure out what it could possibly be.

Christian friend: Do you have a relationship with God?

Girl: Well... I went to Church a couple of times with my family.

Christian friend: Well having a relationship with God filled the hole in my life, and it can fill the hole in your life too.

Girl: It can? How?

Christian friend: Well to have a relationship with anyone you must spend time together and communicate. With God we need to speak to him through prayer and read His word to hear from him. With God he will be with you always.

Christian friend: And God will fill the hole in your life. (Put the God sign over the black hole sign).

Conclusion: We all have the same God-shaped-hole in our lives that these girls had. Although we cannot see them, they exist within our lives. The only thing that can fill this void in our life is the precious love Jesus Christ offers us. We can try many things to fill this hole, but it will not be filled until we turn to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

## Bob and Randy Chapel LV

At the beginning of my Junior year, I decided it was time to leave high school and make the move to Yosemite. I was a lousy student and I found out I could take a test to get a certificate that was the equivalent to a high school diploma. My plan was to spend my days climbing the massive granite cliffs. I had a down vest, two red bandanas, a pair of rock climbing shoes, seventy-five dollars and a VW bug. What else did I need? I'd find work in the valley and spend my off-time in the mountains. More out of courtesy than anything, I swung by my Young Life leader Randy's house first thing on a Sunday morning to say good-bye and to let him know I was leaving. I knocked on the door and after a long couple of minutes Randy answered. He was groggy and bed headed—I had obviously woken him.

I gave him the rundown on what I was doing. All the while Randy stood patiently in the doorway trying his best to suppress a puzzled expression. "You're leaving soon?" he asked when I had finished.

"Yeah, right now, actually," I said as I straightened my back and barreled my chest to show I mean business. "Look Randy, it's time for me to get out of here. I just came by to thank you for hanging out with me and being a great friend."

Randy kept his earnest and concerned face, but he didn't say a word.

"Oh hey," I inserted, "will you tell your girlfriend good-bye for me too, you know, when you see her next?" Again, no words from Randy. He had this weird faraway look on his face like he was looking right through me. He snapped back into our conversation.

"Hey Bob, would you wait here for a second while I check something out?"

"No sweat, Randy." I had nothing but time now; what did I care?

Randy disappeared for a few minutes into the house while I stood awkwardly on his porch with my hands in my pockets. When he came back to the door, he had a tattered backpack hanging over his shoulder by one frayed strap and a sleeping bag under his other arm. He was focused and direct. All he said was this: "Bob, I'm with you."

It was pretty odd to think he wanted to come along.

"You sure?"

"Yeah, Bob, I'm in. If you wouldn't mind, what if I caught a ride with you?" Randy stood with a determined look.

"So, let me get this straight. You want to drive to Yosemite with me—right now?"

"Yep, that's right. I can find my way back after we get there and you get settled in."

"Sure..." I stammered as we both stood awkwardly on his stoop. "Uh, I guess we should get going then."

And with that, Randy closed the door to his little house and we walked side by side to my VW bug. He plopped into the passenger seat and threw his stuff on top of mine on the backseat.

We got to Yosemite before nightfall, and it occurred to me for the first time we had no place to stay. We had a couple of sleeping bags, no tent, and very little money, so we snuck in through the back of a campsite, sleeping towards the back in case anyone came looking for our rent in the middle of the night. Fortunately no one came, and the next morning we woke up to a chilly but glorious morning in Yosemite Valley. To the north of us, El Capitan soared three thousand feet straight up like a huge granite soldier. Half Dome dominated the landscape to the

east. I was in the valley wide living room of my new home. Now it was time to get a job and settle in. I rolled over in my sleeping bag thinking about how great it was to have Randy with me.

We dusted off the stiffness that comes with tent camping and went to the Camp Curry company cafeteria. I thought I could get a job flipping pancakes in the mornings, which would leave the rest of the day to climb. I finished the job application in front of the manager, handed it to him, and he gave it right back, sternly shaking his head no. He didn't even pretend to be interested, but I was secretly thankful he at least humored me enough to let me apply.

Next I went to one of the rock climbing outfitters with a storefront in the valley. I told them I'd do whatever they needed. I was sure that what I lacked in experience I could make up for by what I lacked in maturity or raw intelligence. They said they didn't have any work for me either and jobs were tight and almost impossible to get in the valley. I walked out of the store discouraged and looked at Randy, who was leaning against the VW.

"Bob, you can do this thing if you want. You have the stuff it takes to pull it off. These guys don't know what they're missing. Let's try a few more places. Either way Bob, I'm with you."

I applied at nearly every business in the valley and struck out every time. There were simply no jobs available and no hope of one opening up soon.

The next day was the same. We headed back to the valley to see if any businesses had miraculously decided to expand their operations overnight. It felt like the shop owners had quietly met somewhere when they learned that I was arriving in the valley and were conspiring against me to dash my dreams. The same rocks I had come to climb were now beginning to look like barricades.

Randy and I sat on the front bumper of my VW bug and leaned back against its flimsy and slightly rusted hood that buckled slightly under our weight. The sun was getting low in the valley again and the granite cliffs were casting long dark shadows pointing toward the road exiting the valley.

I only had a few bucks left after buying gas. I turned to Randy and said, "You know Randy, you've been great coming with me and everything, but it looks like I'm striking out. I think what I'll do is head back and finish up in high school."

"Man, whatever you decide, just know that either way I'm with you Bob."

Randy and I exchanged a silent look and a nod, which meant we were done. Without a word spoke, I hopped in the driver's seat of the car, Randy hopped in the passenger seat, and we followed the path cast from the long shadows the day before. I was going back. We drove for five or six quiet hours and every once in awhile Randy would check in on me, "Hey, how are you doing, Bob?"

We pulled down some familiar streets and into Randy's driveway. There was another car in the drive next to Randy's that looked like his girlfriend's. She visited often. We walked up to the front door and he opened it. I walked in behind Randy uninvited, but somehow I still felt welcome. On the floor, I noticed a stack of plates and some wrapping paper, a coffeemaker, some glasses. On the couch there was a microwave half in a box. I didn't understand at first. Had Randy just had a birthday? Was it his girlfriend's? A microwave seemed like weird way to celebrate someone's arrival into the world. I knew Randy wasn't moving because there wouldn't be wrapping paper. Then, from around the corner, the other half of this couple bounded out and threw her arms around Randy. "Welcome home, honey."

I felt both sick and choked up in an instant. I realized that these were wedding presents on the floor. Randy and his girlfriend had just gotten married. When I had knocked on Randy's door on that Sunday morning, Randy didn't just see a high school kid who had disrupted the beginning of his marriage. He saw a kid who was about to jump the tracks. Instead of spending the early days of his marriage with his bride, he spent it with me, sneaking in the back of a campsite.

Why? It was because Randy loved me. He saw the need and he did something about it. He didn't just say he was for me and with me. He actually was present with me.

Wrap-up:

Something in Randy's words "I'm with you" was powerful. He didn't lecture Bob about how he was blowing it and throwing opportunities away by leaving high school. He didn't tell him that he was a fool and that his idea would fall off the tracks. He was resolute, unequivocal, and had no agenda. He was with him.

Bob wasn't his project but his friend.

Faith isn't about knowing all of the right stuff or obeying a list of rules. It's something more, something more costly because it involves being present and making a sacrifice. Perhaps that's why Jesus is sometimes called Immanuel—"God with us." I think that's what God had in mind, for Jesus to be present, to just be with us. It's also what He has in mind for us when it comes to other people.

The kind of love that God created and demonstrated is a costly one because it involves sacrifice and presence. It's a love that operates more like a sign language than being spoken outright. Randy's actions show us that the love Jesus offers is more about presence than undertaking a project. This love doesn't just think about good things, or agree with them, or talk about them. When Randy went with Bob it reinforced the simple truth that Love Does.

This story about Randy and Bob is one of the stories in this book called Love Does. It's a collection of a bunch of stories written by Bob Goff, one of the most awesome people I know about. This summer we've got a copy of Love Does for every counselor at camp because we want all of us to be reading and learning and growing together. Through the 10 weeks we're together I hope that we'll engage in conversation about what we're reading. It doesn't have to be formal at all—talk about it with the people you teach clinics with, talk about it when you're sitting on your porch at night, tell your campers about what you're learning. Each week we'll put a sheet in your mailbox with questions and scripture and a couple challenges because Love Does things and we're going to be secretly awesome together this summer.

Hopefully this will be something you're excited about reading by yourself or reading to your cabin when they're falling asleep at night. I hope you take the time to answer the hard questions and to be vulnerable with the people around you. No one is going to check up on you to make sure you're doing it, there's no pressure, but I know that this can be life giving to you if you jump in.

This summer we have the opportunity to live this kind of love that is about action. How awesome would it be if every single staff person at camp were selflessly loving every child with which they came into contact? How radically would the lives of these campers be changed? How amazing would it be if the foundation for the relationships between counselors was that of love—a love reflective of that which Jesus showed. If we do that this summer we will be changed and these kids will be changed by God’s love.

Scripture:

Mark 8: 34-37 “Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world yet forfeit their soul?’”

1 John 3:18 “Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.”

Song suggestions:

Live Like That

They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

## Body of Christ RV/LV

Message: As members of the Christian community, each person is valuable.

Adaptations:

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:14-26 "For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body."

Characters: Legs, Arms, Eyes, Ears, Mouth

(All Five parts walks on stage in a line, holding hands.)

Everyone: We are the body of Christ, the body of Christ that works together.

Legs: My legs are so pretty. I can walk everywhere!

All others: (ad lib different taunts) Aww, who needs you, get outta here leggy!

(As legs leaves the stage, the rest of the group falls down and ad lib the problems of having no legs.)

All others: (finally out of desperation) Come back legs, come back!

(legs returns to stage, group stands up and links arms again)

Unison: We are the body of Christ, the body of Christ that works together.

Arms: My arms are so strong, I can lift big things!

All others: Who needs you! Arms aren't useful!

(As arms leave stage, rest of group lose their arms)

All others: Arms!! We need you!

(Arms returns to stage, group stands up and links arms again)

Unison: We are the body of Christ, the body of Christ that works together.

Mouth: My mouth is sooo pretty, I can sing and say lottsa stuff!

All others: Get outta here, we don't need you!

(As mouth leaves stage, group loses voice finally the rest of the group makes motions to get mouth to return to the stage as mouth returns to stage, group stands up and links arms again.)

Unison: We are the body of Christ, the body of Christ that works together.

Eyes: My eyes are such a pretty color, and I can see for miles!

All others: We don't need you around! Get out of here!

(As eyes leave, group goes blind)

All others: Eyes come back! We need you!

(As eyes return to stage, group stands up and links arms again.)

Unison: We are the body of Christ, the body of Christ that works together.

Ears: Look at my ears, they are so great! I can even put pretty earrings in them!

All others: Who needs ears? Get outta here!

(As ears leave, the group lose there hearing)

All others: EARS! COME BACK!

(As ears return to stage, group stands up and links arms again.)

Unison: We are the body of Christ, the body of Christ that works together!!!!

Conclusion: Every Part of the Body of Christ is needed. The body is one, made up of many parts, all equally important. Just as each part is important in making up the body, we too are important in the Christian community (or body). God has put us all here for a reason and each one of us is important to the body of Christ.

## Camp Soup RV/LV

Message: We all must work together to make a great Camp experience.

Adaptations:

Scripture: Matthew 22:37 "...love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind...love your neighbor as yourself."

Characters: Chef, ingredients (also needed: a large pot, a large spoon, papers with ingredients written on them or items to represent the ingredients)

The chef enters with a big pot and stir spoon.

Chef: I am going to make 'Camp Soup'! But, I am not quite sure of the ingredients... I want to make a soup that when you eat it, you will have the best Camp experience possible. And then when you go home, you will feel good about your time here and you will carry the things you learned here home with you.

In walks someone with "friendship".

Person: Hello, Chef! What are you making!?

Chef: Well, I am making some Good Old Camp Soup.

Person: Camp Soup? That sounds great! What are your ingredients?

Chef: Well, that's the thing; I am not sure exactly what the perfect combination would be for really great Camp Soup...

Person: Well, I have some friendship, here. I think that would be a great way to start out your soup. We friendship is a super part of a great Camp experience. Making new friends at Camp is one of the greatest things about being here!

Chef: That is a WONDERFUL idea! What a great way to start out Camp Soup! With some wonderful new friendships!

The Chef "adds" friendship to the pot.

Other ingredients are added in a similar manner they may include:

Friendship  
Enthusiasm  
Unity  
Fun  
Love  
Gymp  
God

As the ingredients are added to the pot, the Chef tastes it and claims that it never tastes quite right... not until the last ingredient is added: God.

The chapel skit ends with the Chef tasting the Camp Soup and declaring:

Chef: This is the best Camp Soup I have ever tasted! Wow, each ingredient has such a flavorful taste, each is so important in this soup! I can't imagine one thing being left out from my pot. I hope you all enjoy this soup, it is very good, and there is enough for everybody!

Conclusion: There are many things that are a part of a great experience at Camp. We are all important ingredients of camp this week, we all need to work together to make sure no one is left out! And let's not forget the most part of all: the Lord! Following the I'm Third motto will insure that the Lord makes our camp soup taste great!

## The Cracked Pot RV/LV

Message: The Lord will use our flaws; in our weaknesses we can find strength.

Adaptations:

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:9: But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Hebrews 11:34: "Quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies."

Characters: 1 Narrator, 2 pots, bearer, (another person to put out flowers)

Props: Fake flowers and a bag that drips water.

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on each end of a pole, which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water in his master's house.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

[Perfect pot brags and insults the cracked pot]

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you."

"Why?" asked the bearer. "What are you ashamed of?"

"I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your masters house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts." The pot said.

The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion he said, "As we return to the masters house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path."

Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again the Pot apologized to the bearer for its failure.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of your path, but not on the other pots side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my masters table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."

**Conclusion:** Each of us has our own unique strengths and weaknesses. In a way we are all cracked pots. But if we will allow it, the Lord will use our flaws to grace His Fathers table. In Gods great economy, nothing goes to waste. Don't be afraid of your flaws. Acknowledge them, and you too can be the cause of beauty. Know that in our weakness we find our strength.

**4<sup>th</sup> of July Chapel-**  
**A Declaration of Dependence . . . Upon God**

Message: The Founding Fathers of our nation relied on Divine Providence for protection and direction. We must continue to do the same.

Scripture: Psalm 33:10-15, 20-22  
“The Lord shatters the plans of the nations and thwarts all their schemes. But the Lord’s plans stand firm forever; his intentions can never be shaken. What joy for the nation whose God is the Lord, whose people he has chosen for his own. The Lord looks down from heaven and sees the whole human race. From his throne he observes all who live on the earth. He made their hearts, so he understands everything they do. We depend on the Lord alone to save us, only he can help us, protecting us like a shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we are trusting in his holy name. Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for your hope is in you alone.”

Characters: Narrator, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, King, Courier, Richard Henry Lee

(Thomas Jefferson has an ink quill in his hand and is looking at the piece of paper he has just written. He acts along with the narrator.)

Narrator: Thomas Jefferson Stretched and yawned loudly. He was completely drained of thought and empty of rhetoric, but he was finished writing the Declaration of Independence. He smiled proudly; he was very pleased with the final draft. In fact, the whole process had been amazing. It was as if he were a container that had been filled over the years with bits and pieces – a phrase here, a concept there. And all of it had been waiting, waiting for this moment. When he sat down to write, the words began to flow out. Majestic, powerful, poetic words – words that would change all history. He had such a sense of purpose, of destiny, as he wrote. He lost track of time. Someone had brought him food – and he had eaten – but all he could remember were the beautiful words coming out of the depths of his being.

He extinguished the lamp and went to sleep.

The next day Thomas approached the other committee members chosen by the Continental Congress to work on the Declaration of Independence. He could hardly wait to show them the genius of his workmanship.

Thomas Jefferson: Benjamin Franklin! John Adams! My friends, I have finished the Declaration of Independence!

Benjamin Franklin: So soon! I am amazed at your speed! How were you able to write this so quickly!?

John Adams: ( taking the paper from Thomas Jefferson and reading some of the document) This is astonishing! Beautiful! Magnificent! (reading the word) When in the course of human events... Perfect! We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.... This is good!

Benjamin Franklin: (picking off where John Adams left off – reading over his shoulder) Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed... I wouldn't change a word!

Narrator: Thomas Jefferson closed his eyes, basking in the praises of the older statesmen. It was the highlight of his life. Then the congressman from Massachusetts, John Adams, broke his reverie.

John Adams: I would like to add the words, They are endowed by their Creator (pointing heavenwards) with certain unalienable Rights.

Thomas Jefferson: Where shall I add that phrase?

John Adams: Right after all men are created equal.

Thomas Jefferson: So it will read, All men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights.

John Adams: Yes! Because our rights as humans come to us by our Creator, no one can take them away from us – not even an unjust king!

Benjamin Franklin: (nodding in agreement) Oh, that's good. Yes! And what about toward the end – let's insert with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence. Our protection as a nation must come from the Lord God Almighty.

Narrator: The committee continued to work together, making small changes until they agreed the Declaration of Independence was ready to present to the Continental Congress – if Congress was finally ready to declare independence!

(Characters leave the stage)

Narrator: They would soon know. Their draft would be presented when the delegates reconvened on July 1, 1776. Then they would vote on whether to break with Great Britain.

(King George III enters the stage looking pompous.)

The choice was not a decision that our Founding Fathers made lightly – in fact, they had tried everything else first. A year earlier, on July 5, 1775, Congress had sent the “Olive Branch Petition” directly to King George III, asking for his help in making peace. But the king refused to even look at it.

(Enter Famous British Parliamentarians to speak to King George III – he will not listen.)

Famous British parliamentarians argued for America’s cause, but none of their arguments moved King George. In his eyes there was only one way to deal with rebellion: crush the rebels by military force. He declared war.

(The king pounds his fist in his hand.)

But never in Britain’s history was recruiting volunteers so difficult.

(the king looks for recruits, but the men all say no)

The recruiting officers were tarred and feathered in Wales and stoned in Ireland; in the previous war three hundred thousand men had volunteered, now not even fifty thousand had come forward. King George was forced to hire mercenaries from Germany who were willing to fight the Americans.

(King leaves the stage, American Congress is on center stage deliberating. Holding the Declaration of Independence.)

Despite the fact that England had declared war, many congressional delegates were still hoping for a way to reconcile. Only eight of the thirteen colonies had voted to declare independence.

Courier: (interrupting the Congress) Gentlemen! I come with a message from Great Britain! King George III has hired soldiers are coming to America to fight!

Richard Henry Lee: I propose that now is the time for us to formally declare our independence! Let us gather all of the delegates from all of the states so that we can make a united decision!

John Adams: We must be sure about the wording of the Declaration of Independence. We want to make sure this document reflects our strong reliance upon God our Heavenly Father. Let us add that we are appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the rectitude of our intentions. We want the world to know that we are appealing to God for the rightness of this grave decision!

Benjamin Franklin: We must list all of our complaints against King George as well. We must list all of the ways that he has abused his power over the people as our king.

Thomas Jefferson: There! It is finished! Ring the church bells all over Philadelphia, the Declaration of Independence is ready to be adopted as our national document!

John Hancock: As the president of this here Congress, I shall be the first to sign. (Signs name as pronounces his name out loud - ) John Hancock! A large signature so all can see my name!

John Adams: It is my honor to sign this document, even though it is at a great risk. To the British this is treason and the penalty for treason is death by hanging!

Benjamin Franklin: Indeed we must all hang together. Otherwise we shall most assuredly hang separately.

Narrator: A pensive and awful silence filled the room, as one delegate after another signed what many at that time believed to be their own death warrants. Then only sound was the calling of the name and the scratch of the pen.

In the end, no signer was hung for treason, though many suffered greatly for their stand. For these men, who mutually pledged to each other their lives, their fortunes, their sacred honor, this was more than a declaration. It was more than a document. It was a covenant, the most solemn, the most sacred of human agreements. They understood that God himself was a witness of their actions that day.

In declaring their independence from earthly power and authority, our Founding Fathers declared their dependence upon Almighty God: "with firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence." Like the Pilgrims before them, they fully expected God to keep His side of the covenant as they obeyed His Word and followed His Spirit.

They were not disappointed.

Conclusion:

Our Founding Fathers, the ones who helped begin our nation, started our nation based on the principle that everyone was created equally and given by our Creator rights. They trusted in God's protection and wanted to build a country that would in turn protect all people of different denominations and faiths. They were willing to risk their lives for these freedoms and were able to have great courage due to their faith. Let us all learn from their determination to do what is right and to depend on the Lord. And let us thank the Lord for these men and this country where we are blessed with freedom.

## Donuts RV/LV

Message: Christ's death was for everyone. But unless a person accepts the gift of salvation, what He did they cannot receive the benefit of His work of salvation. We must choose to receive His gift.

Adaptations:

Scripture: 1 John 5:11, "And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. So whoever has God's Son has life, whoever does not have His Son does not have life."

Characters: Teacher, Steve, Susan, Joe, Jenny, other students placed in the audience.

(Teacher walks into the classroom and addresses the chapel audience as the class.)

Teacher: Good morning class. I have a special treat for you today, does anyone here like donuts? Good! I brought some to class today and I wanted to give them out. But first I need someone who is strong. Steve, you are a strong young man, please come to the front of the class and help me out. Can you do push-ups?

Steve: Yes, I can do push-ups.

Teacher: Great. I will need your help as I pass out these donuts. Ok, I am ready to pass these out. Cynthia, would you like a donut?

Cynthia: Yes, I would!

Teacher: Steve, would you do ten push-ups so that Cynthia can have a donut?

Steve: Sure (Steve does 10 push-ups)

Teacher: Wonderful, here Cynthia is your donut. Joe, would you like a donut?

Joe: YES!

Teacher: Steve, would you do ten push-ups so Joe can have a donut?

(Steve does 10 push-ups and the teacher hands Joe a donut. The teacher calls up more students and time goes on, Steve gets slower and slower but keeps doing push-ups without complaining.)

Teacher: Jenny, would you like a donut?

Jenny: No.

Teacher: Steve, would you please do ten push-ups for a donut Jenny does not want?  
(Steve does the push-ups and the teacher hands the donut to Jenny who takes it but will not eat it. This happens a few more times, students refusing the donuts but Steve still doing the pushups for the refused donuts. Steve becomes more and more tired. The teacher finally reaches the last student.)

Teacher: Susan, do you want a donut?

Susan: (begins to cry) Teacher, can I help Steve?

Teacher: (who also becomes visibly emotional) No, he has to do it alone. Steve would you to do ten pushups so Susan can have a donut?

Steve: (slowly does his last push-ups and collapses to the ground) It is finished.

Teacher: And so it was, that Jesus Christ, said "Into thy hands I commend my spirit" With the understanding that He had done everything that was required of Him, He collapsed on the cross and died. And like some of you, many of us leave the gift, on the desk, unaccepted. May God Bless you.

Conclusion: Jesus died on the cross for each one of us. He did this so that we could have a close relationship with God for all eternity. It is a gift that God gives us, He does not force it on us- He is a gentleman, He will not force this gift on us. It is ours to choose.

## Flash Flood RV/LV

Message: God hears our prayers and is quick to help us out. Sometimes we don't recognize it, though, because God acts according to his plan, not ours.

Adaptations: Usually the characters that come to the rescue. Ex: Avengers, River Rats, etc.

Scripture: Psalm 33:4 "For the word of the Lord is right and true; He is faithful in all He does"

Characters: flood victim, news reporter, lifeguard, boater, helicopter pilot, God (use long ranger for God's voice)

News reporter: "This just in: this area is in danger of a flash flood! Water levels are becoming dangerously high! Everyone is urged to take shelter immediately!"

Flood victim standing in about knee deep water (not really of course). He is asking God to save him. Lifeguard comes by to help.

Lifeguard: Here, hold on to my rescue tube, I'll get you to safety.

Victim: No thanks. I'll be okay. God will save me.

Lifeguard: Are you sure? You should let me help you. The water's getting deeper.

Victim: Oh no. I've been praying, and I know God will help me.

Lifeguard leaves. The victim now has to climb higher to keep on top of the water. He continues to pray. Boater comes by.

Boater: Hey there! Looks like you could use a hand! Climb in my boat. I'll help you out.

Victim: Oh, that won't be necessary. Thanks anyway though.

Boater: Are you crazy? You'll drown out here!

Victim: God will save me. I'll be alright.

Boater: Have it your way!

Boater leaves. Victim now has to climb onto a roof to keep out of the water. He keeps praying. Helicopter comes.

Pilot: Hello down there! Grab this rope. I'll take you to safety!

Victim: Thanks, but no thanks. I've been praying. I know that God will come to save me.

Pilot: Please sir! The water is continuing to rise! Let me help you!

Victim: I appreciate your concern but don't worry about me. I'll be okay. Like I said, God will save me.

Helicopter leaves.

God: {Speaks victim's name.}

Victim: God?! Is that you?

God: Yes.

Victim: What has taken you so long? I've nearly drowned! Haven't you heard my prayers?

God: Of course I have, and I have tried to help you. I sent three rescuers to you, but you denied each one of them.

Victim: Oh...

He realizes his foolishness, and the skit ends with him sitting on the roof pondering this.

Alternate ending: You can have the victim drown after the helicopter leaves, and then he appears before God in Heaven. Similar conversation takes place.

Conclusion: God provides us with what we need. It may not always be in the form that we are looking for, but he will answer prayers and his way is always best. Look for the answers God is giving to your prayers, when you see them, be thankful!

## **Fleet Foot and Running Deer RV/LV**

**Message:** As we go through life, God would like us to help each other.

**Scripture:** Matthew 20:26-28 “Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must become your slave. For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give my life as a ransom for many.”

**Characters:** Narrator (optional), Chief, Fleet Foot, Running Deer, Man, Blind Woman (Fleet Foot and Running Deer should have some type of bag or backpack)

A long time ago in a great Indian tribe there was a wise old chief. The Chief realized that he had served his tribe long and well and his time on the earth would soon come to an end. The Chief looked to his tribe and asked the great spirits to show him who the next chief would be. The Chief thought long and hard and finally narrowed his choice down to two strong warriors, Fleet Foot and Running Deer. The great Chief brought these two warriors before him. The Chief told them of the many great leaders the tribe had had before him, and that one of them would be next in line to be chief. It would be the one who proved himself to be the most worthy by a test of their skill, strength, and thinking. Fleet Foot and Running Deer would both be given a bag of hot coals. With this bag they were to run across the plains and the mountains in a great race. Once they completed the running they were to return to the tribe’s campsite and use the coals to light the Chief’s fire. The first person to successfully do all of this would be the next chief.

The day came for the race and Fleet Foot and Running Deer stood at the starting line. The great Chief gave the signal and the runners took off. Fleet Foot sprinted into the lead and slowly lengthened the gap between himself and Running Deer. Fleet Foot had gained a small lead when he saw an old man by the side of his path. He slowed down and the man cried out, but Fleet Foot knew he must be the first one back to have a chance to light the fire and win the contest so he continued on.

A few minutes later Running Deer came across this man and stopped. The man spoke of how he was waiting for his son to return from hunting and his fire had gone out. He was unable to move to restart the fire and would surely die in the night without warmth from the fire. Running Deer thought for a moment and then poured his hot coals into the fire pit. He got the fire relit and helped the old man. Once Running Deer saw the old man was okay he gathered some coals for his bag and started to run again. Later that night the son returned with enough food to feed their tribe. Running Deer’s fire kept the old man and his son alive and warm against the harsh night winds. The next morning they used Running Deer’s coals to build a fire in the village, feeding the famished tribe.

Fleet Foot was getting farther ahead now. He was almost halfway done when he saw a woman searching the ground with her hands. He slowed down to see what she was doing and quickly

realized that she was blind. Knowing that the woman would be no help to him in his race he ran past her and continued on. A short time later Running Deer came along the same woman. He stopped and the woman told him that she was blind and could not see to light her fire. Running Deer once again emptied his coals onto the fire pit and started a fire for the blind woman. When he saw that the blind woman was okay he took some coals from her fire, put them in his, and started to run again. Awhile later the old woman's sons, daughters, and grandchildren returned from a hard day's work. They gathered around the fire and the old woman shared the story of Running Deer's kindness. 25 years later one of the woman's grandchildren was in position to become the next chief. As the elders gathered around the fire to discuss, they spoke of his kindness and selflessness. When asked why he lived his life this way, he told them the story of Running Deer lighting a fire for his blind grandmother.

By now Fleet Foot was way in front of Running Deer. He could see the tribe's campsite in front of him and the other Indians cheered as he approached. As the Chief watched, Fleet Foot poured his coals into the chief's fire pit. Fleet Foot blew and blew on the coals to try to start the fire but the coals had cooled off on the long journey and would not relight.

About this time Running Deer was spotted running toward the campsite. He ran to the Chief and emptied his coals into the fire pit. Within a few minutes Running Deer had created a fire with his hot coals and a new chief had been found for the tribe.

Conclusion: Running Deer was successful in the race and pleased the Chief because he considered other people's needs above his own. If we want to be successful in God's eyes and please him, we need to help others along the way. This is what makes us great in God's kingdom: Putting God first, others second and yourself third.

## **Fleet Foot and Running Deer (Revised) RV/LV**

**Message:** As we go through life, God would like us to help each other.

**Scripture:** Matthew 20:26-28 “Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must become your slave. For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give my life as a ransom for many.”

**Characters:** Narrator (optional), Chief, Fleet Foot, Running Deer, Man, Blind Woman (Fleet Foot and Running Deer should have some type of bag or backpack)

A long time ago in a great Indian tribe there was a wise old chief. The Chief realized that he had served his tribe long and well and his time on the earth would soon come to an end. The Chief looked to his tribe and asked the great spirits to show him who the next chief would be. The Chief thought long and hard and finally narrowed his choice down to two strong warriors, Fleet Foot and Running Deer. The great Chief brought these two warriors before him. The Chief told them of the many great leaders the tribe had had before him, and that one of them would be next in line to be chief. It would be the one who proved himself to be the most worthy by a test of their skill, strength, and thinking. Fleet Foot and Running Deer would both be given a bag of hot coals. With this bag they were to run across the plains and the mountains in a great race. Once they completed the running they were to return to the tribe’s campsite and use the coals to light the Chief’s fire. The first person to successfully do all of this would be the next chief.

The day came for the race and Fleet Foot and Running Deer stood at the starting line. The great Chief gave the signal and the runners took off. Fleet Foot sprinted into the lead and slowly lengthened the gap between himself and Running Deer. Fleet Foot had gained a small lead when he saw an old man by the side of his path. He slowed down and the man cried out, but Fleet Foot knew he must be the first one back to have a chance to light the fire and win the contest so he continued on.

A few minutes later Running Deer came across this man and stopped. The man spoke of how he was waiting for his son to return from hunting and his fire had gone out. He was unable to move to restart the fire and would surely die in the night without warmth from the fire. Running Deer thought for a moment and then poured his hot coals into the fire pit. He got the fire relit and helped the old man.

Once Running Deer saw the old man was okay he gathered some coals for his bag and started to run again. Fleet Foot was getting farther ahead now. He was almost halfway done when he saw a woman searching the ground with her hands. He slowed down to see what she was doing and quickly realized that she was blind. Knowing that the woman would be no help to him in his race he ran past her and continued on. A short time later Running Deer came along the same woman. He stopped and the woman told him that she was blind and could not see to

light her fire. Running Deer once again emptied his coals onto the fire pit and started a fire for the blind woman.

When he saw that the blind woman was okay he took some coals from her fire, put them in his, and started to run again. By now Fleet Foot was way in front of Running Deer. He could see the tribe's campsite in front of him and the other Indians cheered as he approached. As the Chief watched, Fleet Foot poured his coals into the chief's fire pit. Fleet Foot blew and blew on the coals to try to start the fire but the coals had cooled off on the long journey and would not relight.

About this time Running Deer was spotted running toward the campsite. He ran to the Chief and emptied his coals into the fire pit. Within a few minutes Running Deer had created a fire with his hot coals and a new chief had been found for the tribe.

Conclusion: Running Deer was successful in the race and pleased the Chief because he considered other people's needs above his own. If we want to be successful in God's eyes and please him, we need to help others along the way. This is what makes us great in God's kingdom: Putting God first, others second and yourself third.

## The Giving Tree RV/All Camp

Message: Jesus offers his unconditional love to all of us. We should strive to be more like Him.

Scripture: John 15:13 "No one has greater love than this- that one lays down his life for his friends."  
John 15:17 "This is my command: Love each other."

Characters: Narrator, the boy, and the tree

Once there was a giving tree who loved a little boy.  
And every day the boy would come to play  
Swinging from the branches, sleeping in the shade  
Laughing all the summer's hours away.  
And so they love,  
Oh, the tree was happy.  
Oh, the tree was glad.

But soon the boy grew older and one day he came and said,  
"Can you give me some money, tree, to buy something I've found?"  
"I have no money," said the tree, "Just apples, twigs and leaves."  
"But you can take my apples, boy, and sell them in the town."  
And so he did and  
Oh, the tree was happy.  
Oh, the tree was glad.

But soon again the boy came back and he said to the tree,  
"I'm now a man and I must have a house that's all my home."  
"I can't give you a house" he said, "The forest is my house."  
"But you may cut my branches off and build yourself a home"  
And so he did.  
Oh, the tree was happy.  
Oh, the tree was glad.

And time went by and the boy came back with sadness in his eyes.  
"My life has turned so cold," he says, "and I need sunny days."  
"I've nothing but my trunk," he says, "But you can cut it down  
And build yourself a boat and sail away."  
And so he did and  
Oh, the tree was happy.  
Oh, the tree was glad.

And after years the boy came back, both of them were old.  
"I really cannot help you if you ask for another gift."  
"I'm nothing but an old stump now. I'm sorry but I've nothing more to give"  
"I do not need very much now, just a quiet place to rest,"  
The boy, he whispered, with a weary smile.  
"Well", said the tree, "An old stump is still good for that."  
"Come, boy", he said, "Sit down, sit down and rest a while."  
And so he did and  
oh, the tree was happy.  
Oh, the tree was glad.

Conclusion: In this story, Jesus is represented by the tree. Just like Jesus, this tree was willing to give anything to make us happy and to help us. Instead of fruit, branches, and a trunk, Jesus gave us his knowledge, his love, and ultimately his life. Just as the tree gave willingly to the boy, Jesus gives willingly to us. All we have to do is ask and believe. We should learn from Jesus' example and try to love, forgive, and be unselfish.

## God is coming for Dinner RV/LV

Message: When we bless other people, we bless God.

Adaptations: "God Is Coming To Rest Hour",

Scripture: Matthew 25:40 Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:42 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, what ever you did for one of the least of these bothers of mine, you did for me.'"

Characters: Husband, Wife, Voice of God, Old Beggar, Stranded couple, Father, Daughter  
The skit begins with a family is sitting around the house and talking when they get a phone call from an unexpected stranger.

"Ring Ring" – over long-ranger

The husband picks up the phone.

Husband: Hello!

God: Yes, this is God

Husband: God?

God: Yes, God! I am going to come and visit later today. Make sure that you are ready for me.

Family starts running around trying to clean the house and make sure that everything is in perfect order.

While they are getting ready for God to arrive an old beggar shows up at the door.

Old Beggar: Hello there. I haven't had a bite to eat in days. I was wondering if you could spare some extra food for me.

Husband: I'm sorry. We are expecting somebody much more important tonight. We don't have time for you. We need to save our food for our special guest.

The family continues to prepare the house for God.

A man and his wife show up at the house and knock on the door.

Man & Wife: Hello. Our car broke down just a little ways down the road. The next city is miles away. We were wondering if we could stay here for the night.

Husband: I'm sorry. We are expecting someone much more important. You will have to find somewhere else to stay tonight. Sorry!

Later on another man comes to the door with his daughter. She is very sick and needs a place to stay for the night.

Man: My daughter is very sick and I was wondering if you could help us. She needs some medicine and a place to stay. Could you help us out.

Husband: I'm sorry. We are expecting somebody important tonight. I wish we could help. Good luck!

The family continues to clean the house and get things ready. The family is very puzzled because God has not arrived yet.

God calls back again.

Ring Ring

Husband: (Somewhat impatiently) Hello

God: Yes, this is God.

Husband: We've been waiting for you. How come you haven't arrived yet?

God: I tried to come to your house three times today. I came in the form of the Old Beggar, The Couple with the Broken Down Car, and The Young Girl who was sick. Each time I came you turned me away.

Husband: That was you God?

God: Yes. And you denied me all three times.

Family looks puzzled and ashamed.

Conclusion: God would like for us to care for other people. When we do this, we bless God by helping his children that he dearly loves. Ask God to show you how you can please him today by helping other people. When we do kind things for others, we are doing it for God.

## God is coming for Dinner (Version 2) LV

Message: When we bless other people, we bless God.

Scripture: Matthew 25:42 “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ And He will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’”

Hebrews 13:1-2 “Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing people have entertained angels without knowing it.”

Characters: Narrator, Ruth, Poor Man, and Poor Woman

One winter’s afternoon, Ruth went to her mailbox. There was only one letter. She picked it up and looked at it before opening it. There was something strange about it; there was no return address, no postmark, not even a stamp, just her own name and address. She read the letter.

Dear Ruth,  
I’m going to be in your neighborhood Saturday afternoon and I’d like to stop by for a visit.  
Love always,  
Jesus

Ruth’s hands were shaking as she set down the letter. “Saturday,” she thought. “That’s today! But—why would the Lord want to visit me? I’m nobody special. I don’t have anything to offer.” With that thought, Ruth remembered her empty kitchen cabinets. “Uh oh! I really don’t have anything to offer! I’d better hurry down to the store and buy something for dinner!”

Ruth reached for her purse and counted out its contents. There was not much there. “Hmm... Well I think I have just enough to make dinner!” She threw on her coat and hurried out the door, three blocks down to the store. Ruth searched the shelves and found a loaf of bread, cheese and some turkey. The money Ruth had was barely enough for her purchases. Nevertheless, she felt pretty good as she hurried home with her dinner tucked under her arm.

She was so busy thinking about how to arrange the food to look really nice that she didn’t notice two people huddled in a doorway until one of them spoke. “Hey lady! Yeah, hey, could you help us?” It was a man and a woman, both of them dressed in little more than rags. Ruth

paused, and the man walked up to her. "Look lady, I was hoping you could help us. I don't have a job, and my wife and I have been living on the street out here. Well, anyway, it's kinda cold this time of year, and we are hungry. We haven't eaten anything in a couple days, and I was hoping maybe you could spare something to help us out."

Ruth looked at them both. They looked unclean and there wasn't a reason she could see why they couldn't get some kind of a job. She sighed. "Sir, I'd like to help you out, but I'm a poor woman myself. I don't have much food with me. I have a really important guest coming for dinner tonight, and I was planning on serving that to Him. Sorry."

"Yeah, well, okay lady. I understand. Thanks anyway." The man put his arm around his wife's shoulders; Ruth noticed how skinny she looked. The couple turned and began to walk away.

As she watched them leave, Ruth got a very familiar feeling in her heart. "Sir, wait!" The couple stopped and turned as she ran down the alley after them. "Look, why don't you take this food. I'll figure out something else to serve my guest." And she handed the man her grocery bag.

The man's face lit up. "Thank you! Thank you so much!"

"Yes, thank you!" the woman added. Though she was smiling now, Ruth could see that she was shivering. It was quite cold out.

"You know..." said Ruth slowly. "I've got another coat at home. Here, why don't you take this one? I insist." Ruth took off her jacket and slipped it over the woman's shoulders. The couple thanked her again, and she went on her way smiling... without her coat and with nothing to serve her guest.

Ruth was freezing by the time she reached her front door. She was worried, too! The Lord was coming to visit, and she didn't have anything to offer Him! She fumbled through her purse for the door key. But as she did, she noticed another envelope in her mailbox.

"That's odd," she thought. "The mailman doesn't usually come twice in one day." She took the envelope out of the box and opened it.

Dear Ruth,

It was so good to see you today. Thank you for the lovely meal, and thank you for the beautiful coat. I will see you again soon.

Love always,

Jesus

The air was still cold, but even without her coat, Ruth no longer noticed.

Conclusion: God would like for us to care for other people. When we do this, we bless God by helping his children that he dearly loves. Ask God to show you how you can please him today by helping other people. When we do kind things for others, we are doing it for God.

## Good News RV/All Camp

Message: God's word is exciting and relevant for our lives today. It is His living word to us!

Scripture: Psalm 119:9, 97, 103 "How can a young man keep his way pure? By meditating on your word and obeying your commands... Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. I have not departed from your laws, for you yourself have taught me. How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"

Adaptations:

Characters: Newsboy, Bystander

(Open with a newsboy holding up a newspaper)

Newsboy yells: "Good news – Get you good news here!"

Newsboy: "Blind Man Sees!"; "Lost Sheep Found"; "Dead Man Lives!"; "Paralyzed man walks!"; "Man walks on the sea!"; "Five Thousand Fed on 2 fish and 5 loaves of Bread!" (Etc.)

(A bystander enters, takes paper and begins to read out loud)

Bystander: "Jesus feeds another 4,000! Witnesses say a man known as Jesus Christ miraculously fed the 4,000 people gathered to hear him speak. He was quoted as saying, "I feel sorry for these people . . . I don't want to send them away without feeding them because they might faint on the way home." He reportedly fed them with seven loaves of bread and a few fish. Witnesses report that after giving thanks to His Father in Heaven, He broke the seven loaves of bread and passed them around to feed 4,000! And if that weren't miraculous enough, there were seven baskets of bread left over!"

(Bystander briefly looks over paper)

Bystander: "ohh, aahh, un huh" (turns back to the newsboy) "There are a lot of interesting stories and useful information in here! Where can I get a subscription?"

Newsboy: "I have it all right here." Hands the bystander a Bible

They both walk of together, reading another story out of the Bible.

Conclusion:

We all read everyday, whether it's the newspaper, a book, a letter, a sign, or poster or something else. Reading what others have put down on paper is one way that we are able to get a message from one person to another. God has many messages for us about His work, His plan for us, how He wants us to live and how we should treat others. Many people feel that something as important as a message from God must surely be about as much fun as reading a list of rules – do this and don't do that. But instead, God sends His message of love and lessons on life to us in the form of interesting and exciting stories.

## The Greatest Thing in the World RV/LV

Message: Our creator came to earth in the form of a man – Jesus – so that we could be saved and have a relationship with him. This is a great gift!

Scripture: John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he have His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Characters: Bill, Fred, Zurk

Bill and Fred are deeply involved in conversation – whispering – Zurk approaches them slowly, watching them carefully.

Fred: (looks up and sees Zurk; startled) Hey, Bill, look at that!

Bill: Aahh!! What is it?

Zurk: Don't be afraid; I won't harm you. I come from another world many light-years away. We – my companions and I – had to make a landing on your planet. We have to carry out minor repairs on our space ship. We will soon be finished and on our way again.

Fred: (still a little frightened) B-b-but you speak our language.

Zurk: Yes, your brain waves are easily deciphered.

Bill and Fred draw close to each other to discuss in whispers. Zurk looks around him and finally comments.

Zurk: Yuck, what a terrible place; it's dead and dull. How do you ever live here?

Bill: You mean here on earth? Why it's easy. There are lots of fun things to do and see.

Zurk: Like what?

Fred: Well, we've got T.V.

Zurk: T.V.???

Fred: Yes television. It's like a box, with a screen and people appear on it and entertain you. It's terrific.

Zurk: Huh! Why back home we have 'instant experiences.'

Bill and Fred look puzzled.

Zurk: It's like your T.V. only it's three-dimensional, and much better. You just select the experience of your choice, and whammo, you're there. Not only seeing and hearing it, but actually involved in it.

Bill: Boy! (pause) But we've got a lot more things besides T.V. We've got cars, and trucks, and planes, and. . .

Zurk: Cars?

Bill: Yes, it's like a smallish metal box, with wheels and a motor and comfortable insides. It takes you quickly from one place to another.

Zurk: Bah! Why back home, it's all instantaneous. Select the co-ordinates of your destination, press the appropriate button, and you're there – just like that! (snaps his fingers)

Fred: Wow! (in desperation) But we've also got planes that go through the air, and rockets that go out into space. . .

Zurk: Look at my space ship! How do you think I got here, anyway?

Fred: Yeah, forgot about that.

Zurk: Come on – surely you must have something worthwhile on this planet?

Bill and Fred start discussing in whispers

Zurk: (after a while) There must be something you have that we don't have!

Bill: We know – Jesus Christ!

Zurk: (repeats) Jesus Christ???

Bill: (slowly) Yes, God who created the universe, sent his son Jesus to earth. He came down to this planet and lived here as a man! He came and died to save us from our sins – to bring us back into a relationship with our Father, our creator, so that we too can be God's children!

Zurk: (amazed and incredulous) You mean to say that Almighty God, the God who created the whole universe, came to this planet?!!

Fred:           That's right.

Zurk:   And actually died for you??? So you can have a relationship with him??? (Walks off slowly, shaking his head)

Conclusion:   God loves us so much that he came to us as a man – Jesus. He did this because he loves us very much and wants to have a relationship with us. There is nothing more wonderful than having a relationship with God, this was his plan from the beginning.

## I Like You! RV

Message: God gave us the wonderful gift of friendship. One way to build up your friendships is to tell your friends how much you love them.

Scripture: 1 John 4:7, 8 "Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is born of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God – for God is love."

Characters: 2 friends

(This skit is a dialogue between two good friends. They alternate every line)

I like you and I know why. I like you because you are a good person to like.

I like you because when I tell you something, you remember it. And you remember it a long time.

When I think something is important, you think it's important too. We have good ideas.

When I say something funny, you laugh. You think I'm funny!

I like you because you know how to be silly. Boy, are you ever silly!

I like you because you know when it's time to stop being silly.

We fool around the same way all the time. Sometimes we don't say a word.

If you go away, then you send me a postcard. If I go away, I send you a postcard too.

And I like you because if we go away together, and if I get lost, then you are the one that is yelling for me.

And I like you because when I am feeling sad you listen to me. Then you try to cheer me up!

I like you because if I think I am going to throw up then comfort me. You say, "The same thing happened to me one time."

If you find two four-leaf clovers, you give me one. If I find four, I give you two. If we only find three, we keep on looking. Sometimes we have good luck. And sometimes we don't.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July I like you because it's the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of July I like you too.

Even if was way down at the bottom of November.

Even if it was no place in particular in January.

I would go on choosing you and you would go on choosing me over and over again.

That's how it would happen every time. I don't know why.

I like you because...I don't know why, but everything that happens is nicer with you. I can't remember when I didn't like you, it must have been lonesome then.

Why do I like you really? I guess I just like you.

BOTH: I guess I just like you because I like you!

Conclusion: When is the last time YOU told your friends you liked them? God wants us to have good relationships with each other. One way to show love to God is to love each other.

## I.L.A.C. RV/LV

**Message:** Because God made us, we have value. God wants us to recognize this in each other and build each other up. We all have the ability to tear one another down with our words and actions, therefore it is very important to not carelessly tear each other down with our words and actions.

**Adaptations:** One adaptation used in LV has been the character who is getting torn down, begins to get angrier and takes it out on other people as well.

**Scripture:** Proverbs 12:18 "Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."

**Characters:** Person wearing an ILAC sign  
3 people who give put-downs that crumple the sign  
1 person who will approach the three and defend the ILAC person

The person wearing the "ILAC" sign starts off on the stage alone talking about what a great day it is and how excited he is to be at camp, etc. One at a time, the others come out and say something insulting and hurtful, teasing him. When they do, they wrinkle the sign he is wearing. By the time the third person is done, the sign is all wadded up. As this happens, the demeanor of the "ILAC" character noticeably changes. He is now down and not happy at all about the day.

The three that insulted the person then gather in a group to the side of center stage and continue to put down the ILAC character. The fourth person approaches the group; as he listens, he starts to defend the ILAC character with statements that complement the character.

Then one by one, each of the people return to offer an apology and try to lift him up. They also attempt to smooth the sign out a little as they do so. He is now starting to cheer up and by the end is once again very optimistic.

**Conclusion:** The ILAC person goes on to tell the campers what "ILAC" stands for I am Loveable and Capable. God made me this way and he made you that way too! We all have a sign like this although it cannot be seen. We are all loveable and capable, but when people say mean things to us, it is very harmful to our self-esteem and destroys our ability to believe that we are loveable and capable. Our sign gets crinkled up. When others apologize and ask forgiveness, the ILAC sign is straightened out, but there are still wrinkles. That is why it is very important for each of us to never tear others' ILAC signs but to lift each other up through encouragement. Loving each other like this pleases the Lord and helps us all to become the people God has meant us to be: loveable and capable!

## Kalepo RV

Message: God wants us to work together and help each other out. It does not please God when we act selfishly and it can ruin our friendships.

Scripture: Ephesians 4:28 "He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need."

Romans 12:10, "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."

Characters: 1 Kalepo, 3 other Monkeys, 1 Desmond the Lion, 1 Narrator, 2 Singers

NARRATOR: "Today we have a special song to share with you about an old friend whose name was Kalepo. Kalepo was a monkey who had a problem and this song tells the story of how he overcame it."

### VERSE 1

C                    G                    C  
Kalepo the monkey, he liked to eat banana,  
C                    G                    C  
But he gets banana not like the other monkey  
F                    C                    G                    C  
All of the other monkeys climb the tree to get banana  
F                    C                    G                    C  
None of them mind the work it take to climb banana tree.  
C                    G                    C  
But Kalepo the monkey, he rather steal banana,  
C                    G                    C  
He takes from the others all of the fruit they work for.  
F                    C                    G                    C  
He gets alone in the jungle tree away from the other monkeys,  
F                    C                    G                    C  
But it's no fun to eat the thing that don't belong to you.

### CHORUS

C                    G                    C  
Kalepo, bring back banana! You only hurt yourself inside.  
C                    G                    C  
Kalepo, bring back banana! You got to get it right.

## VERSE 2

The birds in the jungle they heard about Kalepo. C G C  
The snake and the burro, they heard it from the beetle. C G C  
They said he was a naughty boy to take from the other monkeys, F C G C  
Everyone hoped that he would learn that it was wrong to steal. F C G C

NARRATOR: “Hey, Kalepo, better come back with that banana or you gonna be in plenty hot water, man!”

## VERSE 3

Old Desmond the lion he was the king of the jungle. C G C  
One day as he passed by he stopped to see the monkeys. C G C  
They told the king about their friend who loved to steal bananas, F C G C  
Desmond he raised his hairy head and this is what he said: F C G C  
“Hey Kalepo, you shame me, you are a selfish monkey! C G C  
By stealing from others you made yourself so ugly. C G C  
But if you bring back stolen fruit right now and say you are sorry, F C G C  
Never to rob your friends again, then we’ll be kind to you.” F C G C

## CHORUS

NARRATOR: “Hey don’t you know . . . when Kalepo saw how bad he had been, he brought back the bananas that time! There was such a party . . . and from then on he climbed the banana tree just like the other monkeys.”

Conclusion: In the beginning, did Kalepo follow the ‘I’m Third’ motto? (no) You’re right, it isn’t in God’s plan to steal. One of His commandments says, ‘Thou shall not steal.’ When Kalepo stole the bananas, he didn’t just hurt God’s feelings by breaking a commandment, but he also hurt the other monkey’s feelings by taking their bananas! The Bible says, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ Let’s treat everyone else in camp just as we would have them treat us. Let’s only say and do things today that build friendships and make others feel good. The happiness we show others will be reflected in their faces. Let’s have a moment of silent prayer and ask the Lord to show us how to better serve our neighbors and love them as ourselves.

## The Lord's Prayer LV

Message: When we pray, we are talking to God. He would like us to be sincere in our prayers; he is sincere in listening and answering.

Scripture: Luke 11:14, 9-10 "One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us how to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When you pray say, Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation . . . So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

Characters: Person, God

This skit starts out with someone praying. You may want to start by reading a portion of the above scripture reading, "One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us how to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When you pray say..."

Person: "Our Father, which art in heaven....."

God: Yes?

Person: Woah! What? Who just said that??!

God: God.

Person: If this is a prank, it's not cool.

God: It's really God.

Person: Seriously?

God: Seriously.

Person: Fine. Prove it.

God: Earlier this week on Tuesday, you weren't able to hold your water at chapel.

Person: Eh...ok...I believe you...

God: You called me. You said, "Our Father which art in heaven..." here I AM. What's on your mind?

Person: But I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day. I always say the Lord's Prayer. It makes me feel good, kind of like checking stuff off my to-do-list.

God: All right, go on.

Person: "Hallowed be Thy name....."

God: Why thank you!

Person: Er..Thank you for what?

God: Do you know what "Hallowed be Thy name" means?

Person: It means....it means.... shoooooot. I have no idea. How should I know? It's just a part of the prayer.

God: I'll help you out. It means honored, holy, wonderful.

Person: I guess that makes sense. I never thought about what "hallowed" meant before. I'll continue,  
"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

God: Are you sure about that Cracked Pot?

Person: Sure, I just think it would be kind of awesome if you got control of everything down here...Wait a second, what did you just call me?!

God: JK, rofl. But tell me do you think I have control over you?

Person: Well, I go to church and Camp Tecumseh.

God: That isn't what I asked you. What about your bad temper? You've really got a problem there, you know. (Person: hey!) Then there's the way that you spend your money, all on yourself. And what about those reality shows you watch?

Person: Stop it! Seriously, I'm just as good as some of the rest of the people at my Church.

God: Excuse me! I thought you were praying for My Will to be done. If that is to happen, it will have to start with the ones who are praying it. Like you, for example.

Person: Oh, all right. I guess I do have some issues. Now that you mention it, I could probably name some others.

God: So could I.

Person: I haven't thought about it very much until now, but I really would like to cut out some of those things.

God: Good. Now we're getting somewhere! If we work together we can cut those things out of your life.

Person: Great. Sounds good, but I need to finish up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does.  
"Give us this day our daily bread."

God: You need to cut out the bread. You're overweight as it is. You've been blessed with more food than you

would ever need. Maybe you should pray for those who are less fortunate.

Person: Well I guess you're right. We did have 14 pounds of food waste at dinner last night.

God: Keep praying. I'm anxious of what you have to say next.

Person; I'm scared to say the next part.

God: Scared? Of what?

Person: I know what You'll say.

God: Try Me and see.

Person: "Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."

God: What about Dave Bennett?

Person: I knew it! I knew you'd bring him up! He is such a jerk. HE IS SUCH A JERK! I don't have enough fingers to count how many times he's made me mad... and I'm like 98% sure he's a vampire.

God: But your prayer? What about your prayer?

Person: I didn't mean it.

God: Well, at least you're honest. But it's not much fun carrying that load of bitterness around inside, is it?

Person: No. But I'll feel better as soon as I get even. I've got some ideas for revenge.

God: You won't feel any better. You'll feel worse. Revenge isn't sweet. Think of how unhappy you already are. But I can change all that.

Person: You can? How?

God: Forgive Dave. Then I'll forgive you. Then the hate and sin will be Dave's problem and not yours. You will have settled your heart.

Person: Oh, You're right. You always are. And more than I want revenge on Dave, I want to be right with You....(pause) ....(sigh). All right, I forgive him. Help him to find the right road in life, Lord. He's bound to be awfully miserable, now that I think about it. Anybody who goes around doing the things that he does to others, has to be out of it. Someday, somehow, show him the right way.

God: There now! Wonderful! How do you feel?

Person: Hmmm, well, not bad. Not bad at all. You know, I don't think I'll have to go to bed uptight tonight for the first time since I can remember. Maybe I won't be so tired from now on, because I'm not getting enough rest.

God: You're not through with your prayer. Go on.

Person: "Lead me not into temptation but deliver me from evil."

God: Good! Good! I'll do that. Just don't put yourself in a place where you can be tempted.

Person: What do you mean by that?

God: Stay off facebook when you need to be doing your homework, don't gossip over text messages about your friends, and don't become obsessed with keeping up with the latest trends. Most importantly, please don't use me as a last resort.

Person: I don't understand the last part.

God: Sure you do. You've done it a lot of times. I don't hear from you for a long time and then you get caught in a bad situation. You get into trouble and then you come running to me saying, "Lord, help me out of this mess and I promise You that I'll never do it again." You remember some of those bargains you tried to make with Me?

Person: Yes and I'm ashamed, Lord. I really am.

God: Which bargain are you remembering?

Person: Well, there was the night that my mom and dad were gone and I was home alone. The wind was blowing so hard I thought the roof would go any minute, and tornado warnings were out. I remember praying, "Oh God, if you spare me, I'll never skip church again."

God: I protected you, but you didn't keep your promise, did you?

Person: I'm sorry Lord, I really am. Up until now I thought that if I just prayed the Lord's prayer every day, I could do what I liked. I didn't expect anything to happen like it did.

God : Go ahead and finish your prayer.

Person: "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen."

God: Do you know what would bring Me glory? What would really make Me happy?

Person: No, but I'd like to know. I understand that I'm not perfect and that I've made a few mistakes in my life. And I can see how awesome it would be to be one of your followers.

God: You've just answered the question.

Person: I did?

God: Yes. The thing that would bring Me glory is to have people like you love Me. And I see that happening between us. Now that these old sins are exposed and out of the way, well, there is no telling what we can do together.

Person: Sounds great, I guess I'll talk to you tomorrow night.

God: OK, but just remember you don't have to wait till tomorrow night to pray again. I'm always here for you.

Person: Thanks God. Amen.

Conclusion: When we talk to God, he listens! Through prayer we can build up our relationship with God and learn how to live a life that pleases him.

## The Lord's Prayer (Revised) LV

Message: When we pray, we are talking to God. He would like us to be sincere in our prayers; he is sincere in listening and answering.

Scripture: Luke 11:14, 9-10 "One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us how to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When you pray say, Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation . . . So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

Characters: Person, God

This skit starts out with someone praying. You may want to start by reading a portion of the above scripture reading, "One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us how to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When you pray say..."

Person: "Our Father, which art in heaven....."

God: Yes?

Person: Don't interrupt me. I'm praying.

God: But you called me.

Person: Called you? I didn't call you. I'm praying. "Our Father which art in heaven..."

God: There you go again.

Person: What?

God: You called me. You said, "Our Father which art in heaven..." here I AM. What's on your mind?

Person: But I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day. I always say the Lord's prayer. It makes me feel good, kind of like getting a duty done.

God: All right, go on.

Person: "Hallowed be Thy name....."

God: Hold it! What do you mean by that?

Person: By what?

God: By "Hallowed be Thy name?"

Person: It means....it means.... Good grief! I don't know what it means. How should I know? It's just a part of the prayer.....By the way, what does it mean?

God: It means honored, holy, and wonderful.

Person: Hey! That makes sense. I never thought about what "hallowed" meant before. "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

God: Do you really mean that?

Person: Sure, I just think it would be kind of neat if you got control of everything down here like you have up there.

God: Have I got control of you?

Person: Well, I go to church.

God: That isn't what I asked you. What about your bad temper? You've really got a problem there, you know. Then there's the way that you spend your money, all on yourself. And what about the kind of books you read?

Person: Stop picking on me! I'm just as good as some of the rest of the people at my Church.

God: Excuse me! I thought you were praying for My Will to be done. If that is to happen, it will have to start with the ones who are praying it. Like you, for example.

Person: Oh, all right. I guess I do have some hang-ups. Now that you mention it. I could probably name some others.

God: So could I.

Person: I haven't thought about it very much until now, but I really would like to cut out some of those things. I would like to, you know, be really free.

God: Good. Now we're getting somewhere! We'll work together, you and I. Some victories can truly be won. I'm proud of you.

Person: Look, Lord, I need to finish up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does.

"Give us this day our daily bread."

God: You need to cut out the bread. You're overweight as it is.

Person: Hey, wait a minute! What is this, "Criticize me day?" Here I was doing my religious duty and all of a sudden You break in and remind me of all my hang-ups.

God: Praying is a dangerous thing. You could wind up changed, you know. That's what I'm trying to get across to you. You called Me and here I AM. It's too late to stop now. Keep praying. I'm interested in the next part of your prayer.....(pause).....Well, go on.

Person: I'm scared to.

God: Scared? Of what?

Person: I know what You'll say.

God: Try Me and see.

Person: "Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."

God: What about Ann?

Person: See? I knew it! I knew You would bring her up! Why Lord, she's told lies about me, spread stories about my family. She never paid back the debt she owes me. I've sworn to get even with her!

God: But your prayer? What about your prayer?

Person: I didn't mean it.

God: Well, at least you're honest. But it's not much fun carrying that load of bitterness around inside, is it?

Person: No. But I'll feel better as soon as I get even. Boy, have I got some plans for that neighbor! She'll wish she had never moved into this neighborhood.

God: You won't feel any better. You'll feel worse. Revenge isn't sweet. Think of how unhappy you already are. But I can change all that.

Person: You can? How?

God: Forgive Ann. Then I'll forgive you. Then the hate and sin will be Ann's problem and not yours. You will have settled your heart.

Person: Oh, You're right. You always are. And more than I want revenge on Ann, I want to be right with You...(pause) ...(sigh). All right, I forgive her. Help her to find the right road in life, Lord. She's bound to be awfully miserable, now that I think about it. Anybody who goes around doing the things that she does to others, has to be out of it. Someday, somehow, show her the right way.

God: There now! Wonderful! How do you feel?

Person: Hmmm, well, not bad. Not bad at all. In fact, I feel pretty great! You know, I don't think I'll have to go to bed uptight tonight for the first time since I can remember. Maybe I won't be so tired from now on, because I'm not getting enough rest.

God: You're not through with your prayer. Go on.

Person: "Lead me not into temptation but deliver me from evil."

God: Good! Good! I'll do that. Just don't put yourself in a place where you can be tempted.

Person: What do you mean by that?

God: Don't turn on the TV when you know the laundry needs to be done and the house needs to be picked up. Also, about that time you spend chatting with your friends; if you can't influence the conversation to positive things, perhaps you should rethink the value of those friendships. And another thing; your neighbors and friends shouldn't be your standard for "keeping up". And please don't use Me just for an escape hatch.

Person: I don't understand the last part.

God: Sure you do. You've done it a lot of times. I don't hear from you for a long time and then you get caught in a bad situation. You get into trouble and then you come running to me saying, "Lord, help me out of this mess and I promise You that I'll never do it again." You remember some of those bargains you tried to make with Me?

Person: Yes and I'm ashamed, Lord. I really am.

God: Which bargain are you remembering?

Person: Well, there was the night that my mom and dad were gone and I was home alone. The wind was blowing so hard I thought the roof would go any minute, and tornado warnings were out. I remember praying, "Oh God, if you spare me, I'll never skip my devotions again."

God: I protected you, but you didn't keep your promise, did you?

Person: I'm sorry Lord, I really am. Up until now I thought that if I just prayed the Lord's prayer every day, I could do what I liked. I didn't expect anything to happen like it did.

God : Go ahead and finish your prayer.

Person: "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen."

God: Do you know what would bring Me glory? What would really make Me happy?

Person: No, but I'd like to know. I want now to please You. I can see what a mess I've made of my life. And I can see how great it would be to really be one of your followers.

God: You've just answered the question.

Person: I did?

God: Yes. The thing that would bring Me glory is to have people like you truly love Me. And I see that happening between us. Now that these old sins are exposed and out of the way, well, there is no telling what we can do together.

Person: Lord, let's see what you can make of me, O.K.?

God: Yes, let's see.

Person: Amen

Conclusion: When we talk to God, he listens! Through prayer we can build up our relationship with God and learn how to live a life that pleases him.

## A Lifelike Dream LV

Message: God wants us to love other people. One way we can love them is by telling them about Jesus Christ.

Scripture: Romans 1:16 "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile."  
Matthew 28:19,20 "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."

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Characters: Narrator, people to act out poem if desired

Last night, I had a lifelike dream  
That it was Judgement Day  
I knew not where I was or why  
Till I heard Jesus say:

"The work is done, Thou weary one,  
Come stand before my throne,  
How many did you bring with you,  
Or did you come alone?"

Then Suddenly I realized that  
My life on earth was thru,  
"The work is done" my Lord had said,  
But how much did I do?

Had I daily walked with Jesus  
Thru each day and every hour,  
How often had I shared the truth  
Of His redeeming power?

I thought of those I'd meant to tell  
Of things I'd planned to do  
But always thought there still was time –  
And now my Savior knew.

Alas, I bowed my head in shame  
Before my savior's throne

And finally gave my sad reply,  
"Yes Lord, I came alone!"

I listen for my Saviors voice  
But all at once instead  
I heard the shrill familiar ring  
Or the clock beside my bed.

I realized then I'd had a dream  
And breathed a grateful sigh  
That now a second chance was mine  
To do before I die.

There was no time to waste, I knew,  
From dawn to setting sun  
If all God's work that he had planned  
Was going to be done.

I jumped up from my bed at once,  
So eager to begin  
And now to leave behind my life  
Of selfishness and sin.

And then for guidance in this task,  
This task that lay ahead,  
I knew the strength must come from God,  
And knelt beside my bed;

"Help me henceforth to work for Thee."  
Thus did I simply pray,  
Then "Thank you, God, for the warning,  
And Thanks, God, for today!"

Conclusion: Christ has called us and he has commanded us to be witnesses for Him – to tell people about how wonderful Jesus is. How often do we live for ourselves, not for Christ and for others? One part of living the "I'm Third" motto is loving others by telling them about the wonderful love of Jesus. If Christ came back today and asked you how many you brought to Him, would you have to answer "I came alone"

## Don't Worry Be Happy (Version 2) RV/All Camp

Message: We can be joyful because God loves us and has made a way for us to have a relationship with him.

Scripture: Romans 10:9-11,13 "For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. AS the Scriptures tell us, 'Anyone who believes in him will not be disappointed' For 'Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

Characters: Krusty, Carter, Chorus (three or so)

This skit is a dialogue between two friends at school. They can be carrying backpacks... or lacrosse sticks or something... and wearing basketball jerseys. There's a chorus in choir robes or something in the background.

Carter: Hey Krusty. I was hanging out at the bowling alley last night playing pool.

Krusty: Yeah, I was there with some friends. We were bowling.

Carter: Yeah, I thought I saw you.

Krusty: Yeah, that was me.

Carter: You guys looked really happy or something. What's up with that?

Krusty: Being happy?

Carter: Yeah.

Krusty: I guess I have a lot to be happy about.

Carter: Like what?

(Enter Chorus. They stand in the background and sing and dance)

Chorus: I got joy joy joy joy down in my heart.

Carter: Where?

Chorus: Down in my heart

Carter: Huh?

Chorus and Krusty: Down in my heart.

(Chorus freezes)

Carter: (skeptically) Um, yeah. So you got joy?

Krusty: You think I'm crazy, don't you? No, for real man.

Carter: Okay, so where's all this joy coming from?

Chorus: Jesus put it there, and nothing can destroy it –stroy it –stroy it. (thrusting motion) Hu! (Chorus freezes)

Carter: Uh, Jesus?

Krusty: Yeah. For serious!

Carter: Okay, well why'd this Jesus guy put joy in your heart? He never did anything for me.

Krusty: Yeah he did! Check it out. Okay, this guy, son of God, right? He comes down from Heaven where he's got a real cushy crib, with angels and stuff, and he comes down to chill here on Earth.

Carter: Uh... okay.

Krusty: And then, get this, he gave up his life for us, all of us, so that we could have eternal life and end up with Him, back at his place, his golden crib - heaven - y'know?

Chorus: Swing low, sweet chariot. Comin' for to carry me home! (freeze)

Carter: Wait, so you're saying he died for everyone? I never even met this dude. Why would he do that for me?

Krusty: God loves all his children, no matter what they've done.

Carter: No way man. I've done some bad stuff, man. No, some really bad stuff. There's no way he could forgive me for that.

Krusty: Carter, we've all done bad things. That's why Jesus had to die—so we wouldn't have to worry about all that stuff!

Carter: Wait a sec—So, say I'm walking down that hall, okay. Not that I'd do this, but let's just say that someone is walking down the hall, okay. And this someone just accidentally stuck out his foot and tripped the principal, okay? What would Jesus say to that?

Krusty: Well man, if you're sorry, Jesus will forgive you.

Chorus: He came from heaven to Earth to show the way

Carter: Okay, but what about something worse. Like really bad. Like, what if my friends and I were doing something and then we got arrested. Is Jesus gunna forgive me for that?

Krusty: Yeah, Carter. Yeah he will. When we ask Him to forgive us, he takes away all our sins. All of them.

Carter: Right, and what do I have to do to get all of this? Buy something, or subscribe to a newsletter or something?

Krusty: No man, it's like a free gift when you call now, y'know? Dude, all you have to do is believe in Jesus and ask for his forgiveness.

Carter: Right, so Jesus died.

Krusty: Yeah.

Carter: For me.

Krusty: Yeah.

Carter: And for everyone else?

Krusty: Yeah.

Carter: And alls we have to do is believe and ask Him to forgive us?

Krusty: Yeah.

Carter: Well that sounds easy man, like gym class or something.

Krusty: Well no, it's kinda like gym class, it's easy to say, but it's sometimes tough to do.

Carter: Wait, whaddaya mean?

Krusty: You've gotta walk the walk when you talk the talk, man. You can't just keep doing bad all the time and then not really be sorry.

Carter: Well how're you supposed to act?

Krusty: Well it's easier to do what Jesus asks of you when you read your Bible a lot, and have a Church that helps you, and even Christian friends that'll keep you on the path.

Carter: Well that sounds cool, man.

Krusty: Oh hey—I gotta get to class, but listen Carter, if you wanna talk about this some more, or if you need any help, you gimme a call, okay? My cell phone's always on. 'Cept in algebra, okay?

Carter: Sweet. Later man.

Chorus: Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah ! (or Don't Worry Be Happy)

Conclusion: Jesus' gift of eternal life is available to all of us! Do you want Jesus to forgive you of your sins? When he forgives us, all of the guilt is gone and we can have a close relationship with him. He wants to be your best friend! Doesn't that make you happy?

## Don't Worry, Be Happy LV

Message: We can be joyful because God loves us and has made a way for us to have a relationship with him.

Scripture: Romans 10:9-11,13 "For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, 'Anyone who believes in him will not be disappointed' ...For 'Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

Characters: Glomer, Friend

This skit is a dialogue between Glomer and a friend. Glomer is very expressive and child-like and is very enthusiastic in the conversation.

Friend: Well hi, Glomer!

Glomer: (sounding rather sad and deflated) Hi.

Friend: Glomer! Why are you so sad? Look at all these children. They look very happy!

Glomer: (looking around) Yeah, I suppose so. But WHY are they so happy?

Friend: Because they know Jesus loves them.

Glomer: Oh yeah, I heard about that guy! He was supposed to be real nice or something like that.

Friend: Real nice is an understatement, Glomer!! Do you know what he did for you?

Glomer: He did something for me? I don't even know Him! I never met the guy before, what would He do for me?

Friend: Maybe one of these kids out here would know what Jesus did for you. (to the kids) Who can tell Glomer what Jesus did for him? (The Friend will call on a child from the audience for the answer, which will hopefully be 'Jesus died on the cross for your sins'.) That's what Jesus did for you, Glomer. He died, so you wouldn't have to and so you could go to heaven.

Glomer: That's pretty neat. But WHAT IF He did meet me? Then I know for sure He wouldn't die for me.

Friend: Why would you say that?

Glomer: I've done some really awful things! There's no way Jesus would die for me.

Friend: Glomer, we've all done bad things. That's why Jesus had to die—so we wouldn't have to worry any more!

Glomer: Jesus would forgive any sin?

Friend: Yep!

Glomer: Okay, how about this one—Let's say I went to camp, okay? Not that I'd ever do this, let's just pretend I did, okay?

Friend: Okay.

Glomer: Okay, say I'm at camp and I don't like this one person so I do something mean to them like tie their shoes together.

Friend: If you ask for forgiveness, God will forgive you.

Glomer: Okay, but WHAT IF their cabin catches on fire and when they try and run out they fall and hurt their toe—No!—they break their leg even!!

Friend: Same thing, He'd forgive you.

Glomer: Okay, okay but WHAT IF when they have their broken leg, the camp gets attacked by humongous killer spiders and they get eaten!!

Friend: (laughing) Glomer! That would never happen!!

Glomer: But WHAT IF !?!?!?

Friend: Yes, God would forgive you because Jesus died for you.

Glomer: And then all of my sins are gone?

Friend: Yes, God loved you so much He sent Jesus for you.

Glomer: I'm worried.

Friend: Worried about what?

Glomer: Well, this Jesus sounds great while I'm at camp but what if I'm at home and I hit my little brother?

Friend: Why would you want to do that?

Glomer: I'm not saying that I'd do that, but WHAT IF?

Friend: Jesus will forgive all our sins—everywhere and anywhere!

Glomer: All of them?

Friend: Yes, I've said that before.

Glomer: Even everybody out there? All those kids? (to the Friend) They look very nice.

Friend: Yes, when they ask Jesus to forgive them for all of their sins, he does it! Every last sin!

Glomer: They just have to believe him and ask?

Friend: Just believe that Jesus died for them and receive his forgiveness by asking for it..

Glomer: They don't have to pay hundreds of millions and a trillion zillion dollars?

Friend: (laughing) NO! It is a free gift! God doesn't take credit cards either.

Glomer: There must be some catch! This is all too good to be true. We don't have to be specially nice or pay lots of money?

Friend: None of that.

Glomer: Okay, so let me get this straight: Jesus. . .

Friend: Yes.

Glomer: Jesus died for me...

Friend: And when he did that, he paid the price for ALL of your sins. It is a free gift for you, Glomer! You just have to receive it. Tell him you believe in him and that you would like him to forgive your sins! Then ask him to be your best friend, he will do it!

Glomer: Yeah, and all I have to do to get to heaven is believe that Jesus died for me and ask him to forgive me!

Friend: That's right and all these kids out here—all they have to do is believe that Jesus did this and then ask him to forgive them and come into their life and they get to go to heaven.

Glomer: (to the Friend) Is that why they are so happy? 'Cause they know Jesus died for them?

Glomer: (to the kids) Are you guys out there so happy because you know Jesus died for you and you're going to heaven? (hopefully kids will yell yes) Alright!

Friend: Why Glomer, you're not sad anymore!

Glomer: Why should I be? I know God loved me enough to send Jesus to die for me and it is a great gift!! I don't have to worry, I'm going to heaven! I'm happy!!

Conclusion: Jesus' gift of eternal life is available to all of us! Do you want Jesus to forgive you of your sins? When he forgives us, all of the guilt is gone and we can have a close relationship with him. He wants to be your best friend! Doesn't that make you happy?

## The Parable of the Sower All Camp

Message: We learn a lot of good things about the Lord at Camp T, are they going to go into our heart and become a part of our lives creating fruit for God or are we going to go back to living the way we were before we heard the Good News.

Scripture: Luke 8:11-15

Characters: Narrator, The sower/farmer, 4 seeds, thorns, birds, a friend

Narrator: "The sower went out to sow his seed..."

Sower: Good morning everyone! I am a farmer and I am going to sow my seed! I am going to plant these seeds and hope for a great harvest.

The sower sows the seed and walks off stage.

Narrator: "...and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled underfoot and the birds of the air ate it up."

Seed comes on stage, looks around and a bird comes and swoops down and carries it off.

Narrator: "Other seed fell on rocky soil and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture."

Seed 2: Ah, the sun, how wonderful, it is helping me grow! But ooh, this soil, it is so rocky! I can't seem to get my roots to go down deep into the soil. Wow, it is really hot out here. If only I could get a drink of water, does anyone have water?! I can't get my roots into the soil to get water! Oh no!! I feel like I am about to faint!

The seed faints to the ground.

Narrator: "Other seed fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out."

Seed 3: Alright! I am starting to grow! This is great, I've got sun, I've got water and great soil and, ooooh. Look at those guys! They are growing up right next to me, like we are buddies or something. They look kind of interesting and.... Oh no!

The thorns choke out the seed.

Narrator: "Other seed fell into good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great."

Seed 4: Wow, this is such wonderful soil! So rich and dark and the sun is glorious and I feel so strong! I just keep growing bigger and more fruitful!

Narrator: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear! Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God. Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved."

Seed 1: Camp Tecumseh is pretty cool and fun. Chapel and devotions are interesting and all, I hear this stuff every day, I just don't believe it.

Narrator: Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away."

Seed 2: Yeah Chapel! I love Camp T! This is so much FUN! I love singing chapel songs and sitting around the devotion candle at night, it is just so much FUN! Fun fun fun! I love it! I love to have fun! Reading the bible is fun! I love what I am learning at chapel, it is just so much fun! Oh, I am getting kind of tired, I feel like sleeping in today and not going to church. I would rather just veg out and watch t.v. Reading the bible used to be fun at camp, but at home, my video games are much more fun. I wonder what my friends are doing right now. I wonder what I missed while I was gone! I wonder if Tami knows Justin likes her. I should get on the phone and get the latest gossip!

Narrator: "The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity."

Seed 3: I am so glad I learned about God and His bible at Camp T! These things are so important and good to know. I believe this is the truth and I want to live my life according to the "I'm Third Motto". Hi guys, what's up?

Thorns: Hey there. Where have you been?

Seed 3: I've been at camp.

Thorns: Camp? Why camp? You missed hanging out at my parent's summer home. I even got a summer job. The money is great, I can buy more swimsuits and a surfboard. You probably don't want to see the new couple of summer time

movies coming out. We have an extra ticket. Also, we were planning on driving down to the city with some of my older brother's friends. It is going to be crazy.

Seed 3: Uh, yeah, that does sound good, I guess I go with you tonight. Maybe I should do these things instead of what I learned from camp.

Narrator: "But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance."

Seed 4: I really believe that the "I'm Third Motto" is the way I should live my life. I really believe what the bible says. I am so glad I learned these things at Camp T! I can't wait to tell my friends about my counselors and the devotions we did.

Friend: Hey! You're back from camp, how was it?

Seed 4: It was great, I learned so much! I got this new bible and I am excited about reading it. Do you want me to show you a cool story? There is this story about a guy that went out to plant some seeds and some of them grew and some of them didn't. I want to be like the seed that grows and is fruitful. I want to have God's fruit in my life!

They walk off the stage looking at the bible together.

Conclusion: While you were here at camp, you have been given a seed. That is God's Word. The things you have learned in chapel, devotions, from your counselors and from each other, these are all ways the seed of God's Word has gotten into your heart. Your heart is like soil, how will the seed go in? How will it grow? Which seed do you want to be (for the rest of camp or as you return home from camp)? May each one of us be like the fourth seed and produce a bountiful crop. There are ways to keep the experience real (for the rest of the week) when we go back home: tell others about camp and its effects on you, pray, get involve with the church, read the bible. Keep the memories alive. May we all continue to grow and not fall back into old ways of doing things..

## The Prodigal Son LV

Message: God's love leads us to forgiveness

Scripture: Luke 15:31-32 "My son, the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

Characters: Narrator, Father, Younger Son, Older Son, Servant

Props: Money, food for pigs (pig bucket?), robe and ring

Narrator: There once was a man who had two sons. Together the sons and the father worked together on the land. Until one day the younger son approached his father...

Young Son: I want my share of your estate now, instead of waiting until you die.

Father: Although this grieves me, my son, I shall fulfill your wish. I will divide all that I own into two portions. Today I will give you your portion.

Narrator: A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and took a trip to a distant land.

Young Son: I want to spend my father's money on all that I was not allowed to have at home.

Narrator: And so, the younger son spent all of his money on wasteful living. He thought that all of the most important treasure could be found here on the earth, and so he indulged in many wasteful pleasures until he had no money.

Young Son: I have no more money, all that I had is gone, and I have nothing to show for the past month of my life. There is not even any food around for me to eat. I must try to find a job.

Narrator: And so the young son went in search of a job. Finally, he was able to persuade a local farmer to hire him to feed his pigs. But the young boy still did not have enough food for himself.

Young Son: I am so hungry that even the food I feed to the pigs looks good. At home, even the hired men have food enough to spare, and here I am, dying of hunger! I need to return home and say to my father, "Father, I have sinned both against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired man."

Narrator: The boy left his job, and began to travel home. Meanwhile, back at home, the father was watching for the son. Many long days he had spent looking down the road, hoping to catch a glimpse of his lost son. While the son was still a long way off, the father saw him and he ran to him. He grabbed his son in his arms.

Young son: Father, I have sinned both against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy of being called your son.

Narrator: But the father would hear none of it. He called out to his servants...

Father: Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening in the pen. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost but now he is found.

Narrator: And so the party began. All of the servants embraced the long lost son, and the father could not stop smiling. However, the older son was working in the field. When he came toward the house he heard music and asked one of the servants...

Old son: What is going on? What are we celebrating?

Servant: Your brother is back and your father has killed the calf we were fattening and has prepared a great feast. We are celebrating because of his safe return.

Narrator: The older brother was so angry at hearing this news he refused to go into the party. Instead his father came out and talked to him.

Old son: All these years I've worked hard for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on horrible things, you celebrate by killing the finest calf we have. I don't understand, Father!

Father: Look, dear son, you and I are very close, and everything that I have is yours. We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!

Narrator: And so, the son who had been lost was reunited with his father, and the son who had remained close to his father's will and heart discovered the power of forgiveness.

Conclusion: In this story, the younger son leaves seeking adventures living wildly until he spent all of his money. Tired and hungry he comes home seeking forgiveness from his father. His father welcomes him home and celebrates. In the same way, God is waiting to welcome us back from living a sinful life. God always loves and always forgives.

## Ragman LV

Message: When we give Jesus our burdens and sins, he replaces them with his righteousness, thus giving us the gift of salvation as he dies in our place.

Scripture: Isaiah 53:5, 11-12 "He was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. He was whipped, and we were healed... When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of what he has experienced, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins. I will give him the honors of one who is mighty and great, because he exposed himself to death . He was counted among those who were sinners. He bore the sins of many and interceded for sinners."

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."

Characters: Ragman, Man following the Ragman, Sobbing woman, Hurt child, Veteran, Drunk (Props Needed: clean handkerchief, bonnet, nice jacket, clothes for the drunk, some time of cart or wagon. Dirty handkerchief, bandage, army or large jacket, blanket.)

I saw a strange sight. I stumbled upon a story most strange, like nothing my life, my street sense, my sly tongue had ever prepared me for. Hush, child. Hush, now, and I will tell it to you.

Even before the dawn one Friday morning I noticed a young man, handsome and strong, walking the alleys of our City. He was pulling an old cart filled with clothes both bright and new, and he was calling in a clear, tenor voice: "Rags!" Ah, the air was foul and the first light filthy to be crossed by such sweet music.

"Rags! New rags for old! I take your tired rags! Rags!"

"Now, this is a wonder," I thought to myself, for the man stood six-feet-four, and his arms were like tree limbs, hard and muscular, and his eyes flashed intelligence. Could he find no better job than this, to be a ragman in the inner city?

I followed him. My curiosity drove me. And I wasn't disappointed.

Soon the Ragman saw a woman sitting on her back porch. She was sobbing into a handkerchief, sighing, shedding a thousand tears. Her knees and elbows made a sad X. Her shoulders shook. Her heart was breaking.

The Ragman stopped his cart. Quietly, he walked to the woman, stepping round tin cans, dead toys, and Pampers. "Give me your rag," he said so gently, "and I'll give you another."

He slipped the handkerchief from her eyes. She looked up, and he laid across her palm a linen cloth so clean and new that it shined. She blinked from the gift to the giver.

Then, as he began to pull his cart again, the Ragman did a strange thing: he put her stained handkerchief to his own face; and then he began to weep, to sob as grievously as she had done, his shoulders shaking. Yet she was left without a tear.

"This is a wonder," I breathed to myself, and I followed the sobbing Ragman like a child who cannot turn away from mystery.

"Rags! Rags! New rags for old!"

In a little while, when the sky showed gray behind the rooftops and I could see the shredded curtains hanging out black windows, the Ragman came upon a girl whose head was wrapped in a bandage, whose eyes were empty. Blood soaked her bandage. A single line of blood ran down her cheek.

Now the tall Ragman looked upon this child with pity, and he drew a lovely yellow bonnet from his cart.

"Give me your rag," he said, tracing his own line on cheek, "and I'll give you mine."

The child could only gaze at him while he loosened the bandage, removed it, and tied it to his own head. The bonnet he set on hers. And I gasped at what I saw: for with the bandage went the wound! Against his brow it ran a darker, more substantial blood—his own!

"Rags! Rags! I take old rags!" cried the sobbing, bleeding, strong, intelligent Ragman.

The sun hurt both the sky, now, and my eyes; the Ragman seemed more and more to hurry. "Are you going to work?" he asked a man who leaned against a telephone pole. The man shook his head.

The Ragman pressed him: "Do you have a job?"

"Are you crazy?" sneered the other. He pulled away from the pole, revealing the right sleeve of his jacket--flat, the cuff stuffed into the pocket. He had no arm.

"So," said the Ragman. "Give me your jacket, and I'll give you mine."

Such quiet authority in his voice!

The one-armed man took off his jacket. So did the Ragman--and I trembled at what I saw: for the Ragman's arm stayed in its sleeve, and when the other put it on he had two good arms, thick as tree limbs; but the Ragman had only one.

"Go to work," he said.

After that he found a drunk, lying unconscious beneath an army blanket, an old man, hunched, wizened, and sick. He took that blanket and wrapped it around himself, but for the drunk he left new clothes.

And now I had to run to keep up with the Ragman. Though he was weeping uncontrollably, and bleeding freely at the forehead, pulling his cart with one arm, stumbling for drunkenness, falling again and again, exhausted, old, and sick, yet he went with terrible speed. On spider's legs he skittered through the alleys of the City, this mile and the next, until he came to its limits, and then he rushed beyond.

I wept to see the change in this man. I hurt to see his sorrow. And yet I needed to see where he was going in such haste, perhaps to know what drove him so.

The little old Ragman--he came to a landfill. He came to the garbage pits. And then I wanted to help him in what he did, but I hung back, hiding. He climbed a hill. With tormented labor he cleared a little space on that hill. Then he sighed. He lay down. He pillowed his head on a handkerchief and a jacket. He covered his bones with an army blanket. And he died.

Oh, how I cried to witness that death! I slumped in a junked car and wailed and mourned as one who has no hope--because I had come to love the Ragman. Every other face had faded in the wonder of this man, and I cherished him; but he died. I sobbed myself to sleep.

I did not know--how could I know--that I slept through Friday night and Saturday and its night, too.

But then, on Sunday morning, I was wakened by violence.

Light--pure, hard, demanding light--slammed against my sour face, and I blinked, and I looked, and I saw the last and the first wonder of all. There was the Ragman, folding the blanket most carefully, a scar on his forehead, but alive! And, besides that, healthy! There was no sign of sorrow or age, and all the rags that he had gathered shined for cleanliness.

Well, then I lowered my head and, trembling for all that I name with shame, for I was a sorry figure next to him. I took off all my clothes in that place, and I said to him with dear yearning in my voice, "Dress me."

He dressed me. My lord, he put new rags on me, and I am a wonder beside him. The Ragman, the Ragman, the Christ!

Conclusion: Jesus is our Ragman. Whatever is hurting us, making us sad or holding us down, he is willing to take. God came to earth as Jesus to take care of all of the mistakes we make, all of our sins. He also came to earth to take all of our sickness and sadness. All we need to do is ask him to forgive our sins and to take our burdens. He did it because he loves us so much and wants to have a relationship with him. Have you asked him to forgive your sins and carry your burdens? When we give him our filthy rags, he gives us wonderful new clean clothes.

## Thank You Lord LV/All Camp

Message: We must remember to thank Jesus for all He does for us.

Adaptations: Lepers walk slowly to the stage, with a song playing in the background

Scripture: Luke 17:11-18

Characters: Singers, 10 lepers, Jesus

(Singers sing this song and other characters just act out what they are saying.)

### Chorus

G Em C Em7 Am D  
Thank you, Lord. I just want to thank you, I just want to thank you,  
G Em C Em7 Am D G - C - G  
Thank you, Lord. I just want to thank you. I just want to thank you, Lord.

### Verse 1

G Em C Em7 Am D  
There were ten men in the Bible days. They had been sick so very long.  
G Em  
Then one day Jesus passed their way.  
C Em7 Am D  
With a touch of His hand their disease was gone and they all went on their way.  
Em C  
They all went on their merry way.  
G D  
But one came back and said, "I've got something to say."

### Chorus

### Verse 2

G Em C Em7 Am D  
Lord, I don't want to be guilty like the nine that went their way without thanking you,  
G Em  
But I want to be like the one who returned.  
C Em7 Am D  
I can see him now as he pressed his way to the crowd to get to you.  
Em C G D  
With tears of joy in his eyes he cried, "Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord."



## **The King, the Kingdom and the Enemy RV/All Camp**

Message: Our Identity comes from the King who loves us.

Scripture: Philippians 4:8 “Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about these things.”

II Thessalonians 2:16-17—May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

Characters: Narrator, King, Prince, Princess, Friend, Enemy (7)

Narrator: A long time ago there was a great King named Francis who had two children: Prince Fredrick and Princess Fiona. The King adored his two children and always let them know how much he loved them and how important they were to him. He told his son, Prince Fredrick, that he was noble, loyal and humble. He told his daughter, Princess Fiona, that she was beautiful, kind, and compassionate. The Prince and the Princess believed their father and were confident about themselves.

The King often encouraged his children to spend time outside of the castle and to make friends with the others in the kingdom. Prince Fredrick and Princess Fiona developed many friendships with the people of the kingdom.

Now in this great kingdom, there was an Enemy of the King. This Enemy wanted to destroy the King and take over his kingdom. The Enemy knew how much the King loved his children

and so he decided the easiest way to dethrone the King was to deceive his children. And so he worked out his plan to bring down Fredrick and Fiona.

\*\*\*PAUSE\*\*\*

One day as Fiona was chillaxin with her friend, the Enemy came up to her and whispered in her ear “You know, your friend is more beautiful than you. She only hangs out with you because you are the Princess and your father is the King. You are not beautiful, or kind or compassionate. In fact, you are spoiled, selfish and self-centered.” As the Princess heard this, she started to believe the Enemy. She began to doubt herself and stopped spending time with her friends.

\*\*\*PAUSE\*\*\*

The next day as Fredrick was playing cricket with a friend, the Enemy came up to him and whispered in his ear “You are a sorry excuse for a cricket player. Your friends don’t really want you to play, but they are afraid if they kick you off the team your father, the King, will be upset with them. You are just embarrassing yourself. You should probably quit now.” As the Prince heard this, he started to believe the Enemy. He became self-conscious and stopped spending time with his friends.

The next day, as the Prince and Princess were sitting by themselves in the castle, the Enemy snuck in and sat down with them. He reminded Fiona how spoiled, selfish and self-centered she was. He reminded Fredrick how uncoordinated, awkward and scared he was. Then he told the Prince and Princess that their father, the King, was ashamed of them. He said that the King only wanted a son who was noble, loyal and humble. And he only wanted a daughter who was beautiful and kind and compassionate. The Prince and the Princess believed the Enemy and were sad. The Enemy told them that they were unworthy and should leave the kingdom immediately. The Prince and the Princess believed the Enemy and so they went to pack their things and run away.

As they were packing, the King found his son and daughter and asked what they were doing. Fredrick and Fiona explained that they were leaving because they were no longer good enough to be in the kingdom. Fredrick told the King that he was not fit to be the Prince. Fiona expressed her feelings of inadequacy about serving as Princess. The King placed a loving hand on each of his children's shoulders, looked them in the eyes and told them that he would always love them because they were his children and he was their father. The King lead them away telling his children that he could help them with their challenges and struggles.

Conclusion: In this story, the King is God and we are His sons and daughters, the Prince and Princess. In the Bible God reminds us how much He loves us and how wonderful we are, but the Enemy, Satan, lies to us and tries to convince us that we are not good and that God does not love us. When Satan tries to pull us away from God, we need only look to God and His Word to see that we are His children and He loves us so much.

## The Room LV

Message: We are all in need of forgiveness; Jesus is the one who can take away our sins.

Scripture: Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."  
1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Characters: Narrator, main character, Jesus

In that place between wakefulness and dreams, I found myself in a room. There were no distinguishing features except for the one wall covered with small index-card files. They were like the ones in libraries that list titles by author or subject in alphabetical order. But these files, which stretched from floor to ceiling and seemingly endless in either direction, had very different headings. As I drew near the wall of files, the first to catch my attention was one that read "Girls I Have Liked." I opened it and began flipping through the cards. I quickly shut it, shocked to realize that I recognized the names written on each one.

And then without being told, I knew exactly where I was. This lifeless room with its small files was a crude catalog system for my life. Here were written the actions of my every moment, big and small, in a detail my memory couldn't match.

A sense of wonder and curiosity, coupled with horror, stirred within me as I began randomly opening files and exploring their contents. Some brought joy and sweet memories; others a sense of shame and regret so intense that I would look over my shoulder to see if anyone was watching. A file named "Friends" was next to one marked "Friends I Have Betrayed."

The titles ranged from the mundane to the outright weird. "Books I Have Read," "Lies I Have Told," "Comfort I Have Given," "Jokes I Have Laughed At." Some were almost hilarious in their exactness: "Things I Have Yelled at My Brothers." Others I couldn't laugh at: "Things I Have Done in Anger," "Things I Have Muttered Under My Breath at My Parents." I never ceased to be surprised by the contents. Often there were many more cards than I expected. Sometimes there were fewer than I hoped.

I was overwhelmed by the sheer volume of the life I had lived. Could it be possible that I had the time in my twenty years to write each of these thousands, possibly millions, of cards? But each card confirmed this truth. Each was written in my own handwriting. Each signed with my signature.

When I pulled out the file marked "Songs I Have Listened To," I realized the files grew to contain their contents. The cards were packed tightly, and yet after two or three yards, I hadn't found the end of the file. I shut it, shamed, not so much by the quality of music, but more by the vast amount of time I knew that file represented.

When I came to a file marked “Lustful Thoughts,” I felt a chill run through my body. I pulled the file out only an inch, not willing to test its size, and drew out a card. I shuddered at its detailed contents. I felt sick to think that such a moment had been recorded.

Suddenly I felt an almost animal rage. One thought dominated my mind: “No one must ever see these cards! No one must ever see this room! I have to destroy them!” In an insane frenzy I yanked the file out. Its size didn’t matter now. I had to empty it and burn the cards. But as I took the file at one end and began pounding it on the floor, I could not dislodge a single card. I became desperate and pulled out a card, only to find it as strong as steel when I tried to tear it.

Defeated and utterly helpless, I returned the file to its slot. Leaning my forehead against the wall, I let out a long, self-pitying sigh. And then I saw it. The title bore “People I Have Shared the Gospel With.” The handle was brighter than those around it, newer, almost unused. I pulled on its handle and a small box not more than three inches long fell into my hands. I could count the cards it contained on one hand.

And then the tears came. I began to weep. Sobs so deep that the hurt started in my stomach and shook through me. I fell on my knees and cried. I cried out of shame, from the overwhelming shame of it all. The rows of file shelves swirled in my tear-filled eyes. No one must ever, ever know of this room. I must lock it up and hide the key.

But then as I pushed away the tears, I saw Him. No, please not Him. Not here. Oh, anyone but Jesus.

I watched helplessly as He began to open the files and read the cards. I couldn’t bear to watch him open the files and read the cards. I couldn’t bear to watch His response. And in the moments I could bring myself to look at His face, I saw a sorrow deeper than my own. He seemed to intuitively go to the worst boxes. Why did He have to read every one?

Finally He turned and looked at me from across the room. He looked at me with pity in His eyes. But this was a pity that didn’t anger me. I dropped my head, covered my face with my hands and began to cry again. He walked over and put His arm around me. He could have said so many things. But He didn’t say a word. He just cried with me.

Then He got up and walked back to the wall of files. Starting at one end of the room, He took out a file and, one by one, began to sign His name over mine on each card.

“No!” I shouted, rushing to Him. All I could find to say was “No, no,” as I pulled the card from Him. His name shouldn’t be on these cards. But there it was, written in red so rich, so dark, so alive. The name of Jesus covered mine. It was written with His blood.

He gently took the card back. He smiled a sad smile and continued to sign the cards. I don’t think I’ll ever understand how He did it so quickly, but the next instant it seemed I heard Him

close the last file and walk back to my side. He placed His hand on my shoulder and said, "It is finished."

I stood up, and He led me out of the room. There was no lock on its door. There were still cards to be written.

Conclusion: For sinners like you and me, there's good news: Christ paid our debt. He has covered our sin with His blood; He has forgotten the past. Purity starts today. Romans 13:12 states, "So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light." Admittedly some will have more to lay aside than others – more memories, more pain, more regrets. But the past Needn't determine our future. We have choices right now about how we'll live. Will we set our hearts on God and walk on His paths? We must believe in Him and to ask Him for forgiveness, and He will forgive us despite the nature or quantity of our sins and then he will help us to walk on the path of righteousness.

## The Wise and Foolish Builders RV/LV

**Message:** Jesus is the only firm foundation for our lives, so we should always be seeking relationship with Him and putting His commands into practice.

**Scripture:** Matthew 7:24-27 “So then, everyone who hears my words and put them into practice is like a wise man. He builds his house on the rock. The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. But it does not fall. It is built on the rock. But everyone who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man. He builds his house on sand. The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. And it falls with a loud crash.

**Characters:** Wise builder, foolish builder, person as rain and wind

**Description:** Two builders, one at a time come to the stage (foolish builder first). On stage with character are character traits ‘bricks’ to build house as well as other bricks. The foolish builder decides to build his/her house on sand, while the wise builder decides upon rock.

Foolish builder character traits ‘bricks’ are power, pursuit of wealth, selfishness, dishonesty, and unfaithfulness. The foolish builder is hasty and overconfident, stating that these ‘bricks’ are enough for security without a firm foundation.

Wise builder character traits ‘bricks’ are generosity, kindness, humility, faithfulness, and honesty. The wise builder takes time and acknowledges the importance of a firm foundation.

With the completion of each house, the builders lies down to rest and a storm rises up. The wise builder rests peacefully while the foolish builder becomes increasingly more anxious. The storm washes away the sand underneath the house of the foolish builder and it collapses.

(Foolish builder travels to the home of the wise builder for shelter)

**Foolish builder:** I was hoping you could offer me a place to stay since the storm blew down my house and your home is holding up strong after the storm. My foundation was not strong enough for the storms in our lives.

**Wise builder:** You are always welcome in my home, come in and I will show you how to build a house on a strong foundation. First, the foundation is not build on our own strength, but on the rock that does not move. Let me show you the foundation. See this, this rock is Christ, and He’s the only foundation that will hold up in any storm.

Foolish builder: So, the foundation is Christ. Then I could have had a house still standing?

Wise builder: The foundation is the key, but the character traits you build upon the foundation are important also. With traits like honesty, responsibility, faithfulness, and humility, your house will not fall or be damaged by the storms. Put these into practice every day.

Conclusion: Jesus is the firm foundation. We should build our lives around Him and make sure He is our foundation. When He is our foundation he will always be with us and keep us strong.

## Your Heart RV

**Message:** People may fail you, but Jesus never will. He loves you and therefore will protect and heal your heart.

**Scripture:** Matthew 11:28-30 "Jesus said, 'Come to me, all you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke fits perfectly, and the burden I give you is light.'"

Isaiah 40:29-31 "He gives power to those who are tired and worn out; He offers strength to the weak. Even youths will become exhausted, and young men will give up. But those who wait upon the Lord will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint."

**Characters:** A girl, her parents, two peers, a boyfriend, and the voice of Jesus

The main character happily enters the room (called life) carrying a wooden heart with her.

The girl walks into the room where her mom and dad are having an argument.

**Parents:** (Have some kind of argument). (Parents are facing opposite directions after a small argument). The girl hands her heart to her mom, but her mom ignores her. The mom drops the heart on the ground. The girl is able to pick up the heart on her own. She dusts off her heart and hands it to her dad. She begins to speak to him, but shortly realized that she is being ignored. He drops her heart on the ground. (Parents leave the stage). The girl has difficulty picking up her heart and but is able to do it on her own.

Two cool peers walk on stage and are displaying a cool arrogant attitude. She gives her heart to her peers. Then she begins to talk to her peers. Her peers start to think that they are too cool for the girl. They tell her they are going to a certain section of the chapel. She goes and they turn around and sniker. "Wow did we ditch her" they continue to mock her and toss her heart to the ground. Her heart is on the ground, she is able to pick it up, but with lots struggle.

Finally, she meets a boyfriend, he says "how you doin'" and they are talking when another girl walks by. The boyfriend says, "how you doin'" and leaves to follow the new girl. The heart is dropped again, but this time she neither has the will, or strength to pick it up on her own.

As she begins to cry, she hears a voice (Jesus/off stage) asks, "what is wrong." She explains that her heart is been dropped so many times and hurts, that it can't possibly be picked up again. Jesus tells her that he wants to help carry her heart. He encourages her to try again and tells her He will help her and always be with her. Her heart matters to Him. She now has a huge smile and says, "thank you."

**Conclusion:** Sometimes you may feel as if there is no one you can trust. You may have given your heart to someone, a friend, someone in your family or maybe

a teacher, and they have either ignored it maybe even hurt it. Often times they don't even know they are hurting you! The good news is, there is someone who you can trust with your heart, that is Jesus. Jesus loves you. He will never leave you and he will never hurt you. In fact, he can take your heart that has been neglected, hurt and hardened and change it into a beautiful new heart.

## Plink RV/LV

Message: In the Body of Christ, all parts are useful and necessary.

Adaptations: Be creative with what is being made, and what goes in.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 “The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body.”

Characters: The Machine-maker, one or two people for each part

A “machine-maker” wants to build the world’s greatest machine, a machine made up of all sorts of parts. He will bring up pre-determined “volunteers” to help him build this incredible machine.

Two people are spark plugs. The machine-maker sets them in position and gives them a sound and/or motions to do. He has them practice their part.

Then he asks for the rest of the parts. Go through the same procedure: 1.) bring each part down one at a time, 2.) set them in position, 3.) give them a sound or motion, and 4.) they practice their part.

Suggested parts (these can be added to or deleted, be creative)

*view finder	*motor
*mirror	*computer
*runner	*calculator

The second to last item of the machine is the “ON/OFF” switch.

The last part is the “Plink” part. This is the most important part of the machine. When “Plink” is put into place, Plink’s action and noise is very simple: flick finger in and out and say “plink”.

Now have a trial run with the whole machine. Make sure to turn the machine on with the “ON/OFF” switch.

The machine-maker is so thrilled with this awesome machine that he decides to enter it in a contest so he leaves.

While the machine-maker is gone, the machine “comes to life”. Each part begins bragging about how great they are. Eventually, they see Plink and the parts begin to mock and make fun of Plink. They all say how unimportant Plink is and tells Plink that they do not need him/her. So Plink leaves feeling rejected.

By this time the machine-maker returns and decides to try out the machine one more time. (As the machine-maker was coming back to the machine, the machine parts see him, quiet down, and get back into their positions.)

The machine-maker turns the switch on and the machine revs up just a little and then dies. The machine-maker goes hysterical trying to find out what’s wrong with his wonderful machine. He checks all the parts and notices that Plink is gone. “What happened to Plink?” he asks. The machine parts all point off-stage to where Plink is.

The machine-maker goes over to Plink and asks what happens. Plink explains and then the machine-maker tells Plink that he is important and is very much needed for the machine to work. The machine agrees.

Plink joins the group again and the machine-maker turns the machine on and the machine is working well once again. They all live happily ever after!

Conclusion: God has given us all important gifts and talents. It is good for us to appreciate these different things in one another and be grateful for the things God has given you! You are an important part of God’s family!

## The Potter's Shop RV/LV

Message: The Lord has uniquely made us all and he loves us.

Adaptations: Cell Phones,

Scripture: Isaiah 64:8 "Yet, oh Lord, you are our father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are the work of your hand."

Characters: 3 clay pots, 1 Potter, 1 customer

A potter walks into his shop and decides he's going to make some pots. He takes one slab of clay (a person) and "forms" that person into a pot with two handles. Then, the potter takes a third piece of clay (person) and forms that "clay" into a pot with one handle and a spout.

The potter then decides to take a break from his hard work and leaves the shop, the pots start to talk among themselves. The two pots with spouts make fun of the pot with two handles and no spout saying things like, "who wants a pot with no spout? What good is that?" The pot without a spout says things like, "why did the potter make me this way, anyway?" and "I wish I had a spout like those other two..."

When the potter comes back into his shop, the pots stop talking and resume an inanimate posture. Just then, a customer walks into the store and is interested in buying a pot. The customer carefully inspects the three pots and rules out buying the pots with a spout before deciding to buy the pot with two handles. The customer purchases the pot with the two handles and leaves the shop with his/her new pot.

Conclusion: God made us all unique and special. We all have different talents, abilities, and gifts and the Lord uses us for his glory in different ways. We all have a very special purpose for our life that the good Lord has made us especially for. Be thankful for the gifts the Lord has given you!

NOTE: Make sure the Potter doesn't make fun of any of the pots! That will ruin the point. He made them all and is pleased with their uniqueness.

## Prayer Chapel RV/LV

Message: There are many ways that we can pray to God.

Adaptations: Praying in different languages, praying in song

Scripture: Philippians 4: 6,7 "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

I Thessalonians 5: 16-18 "Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Characters: 2 People to sign praises, 1 Person to pray while doing an activity, 1 Person to so a silent prayer, 3 People to pray in a group, 1 Person to pray in another language

Five scenarios will be used to show the versatility of prayer and some of the different ways in which we can pray to God.

Scene 1: Two people singing praises to God (pick some chapel songs) in agreement with the words that are being sung as their prayer to God. Telling God that we love him.

Scene 2: Activity Prayer can be prayed while the actor is climbing MT. Wood or playing soccer, or whichever activity you choose.

Scene 3: A person getting on their knees and bowing their head in prayer can depict Silent prayers.

Scene 4: Group prayer can be depicted as a group praying "popcorn style" out loud.

Scene 5: Someone can pray in another language.

Conclusion: We can pray in many different ways and languages and God will hear us. Because we can pray in all these different ways, we don't have to stop whatever we are doing to pray. We can pray at all times, in all places! In fact, God wants us to pray continually and have an attitude of prayer throughout each and every day.

## Race to Know the Lord LV/All Camp

Message: Our relationship with the Lord is like a race. There are many things that tempt us to stop the race, but if we continue with the Lord's help, we can win the race by finishing.

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-2 "Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith."  
Hosea 6:3 "Let us acknowledge the Lord, let us press on to acknowledge Him."

Characters: Announcer, Slothful/Laziness, Enthusiasm/Excitement,  
Perseverance/Determination, Apathy/Carelessness, Diligence/Preparedness,  
Temptations

The skit begins with 5 racing contestant and an announcer. The runners run as the announcer commentates the entire race. The announcer begins:

"Here we are at the Camp Tecumseh Race to Know the Lord. This exciting event takes place every week as people come from miles around to witness this famous spectacle. Yes indeed, Ladies and Gentlemen, you heard right. Before your very eyes this day you are going to witness a race to know the Lord. To win the race all you have to do is finish it. That's right, cross the finish line and you are a winner! Oh, but don't think its just that easy, for along the way are obstacles too great to defeat unless you are committed to win.

"This morning in our Race to Know the Lord we have five racers. In Lane 1, the shortest distance around the course because it the inside lane, we have Slothful—known for his keen ability to fall asleep at any time of day at the snap of a finger. Slothful is so lazy we had to carry him in for the race today and glue his eyelids up with Elmer's to guarantee he would not fall asleep or forget what he was doing.

"In Lane 2, we have Enthusiasm. He is so excited about the race. He was out two hours ahead of time to make sure he was ready. As you can tell, Enthusiasm is psyched-up and ready to go. I think he will make it.

"In Lane 3 is Perseverance—nothing will stop him! He has every reason not to be here. He has lost everything: his friends, his family, his possessions, his right arm is broken, his left ankle is sprained, he seemingly has nothing left to live for, but there is something special about Perseverance. He wants to know the Lord and nothing will stop him.

"In Lane 4, we have Apathy. Who knows why Apathy is here. Perhaps pride, perhaps peer pressure; but whatever it is, he doesn't seem to care.

“And finally, Lane 5 belongs to Diligence. Diligence has been working out hard for this race, carefully preparing for the task set before him. He has the best equipment, and the best trainers. He knows it won’t be easy, but he’s prepared for anything. The race is about to begin...”

“And they’re off! Slothful is getting an okay start. Enthusiasm has not started yet, trying to encourage Apathy to enter the race. Perseverance is behind Slothful, but pressing on. Look at Diligence go! He will be finishing in no time. Oh no, Slothful is falling asleep! Looks like this is the end. Enthusiasm is encouraging perseverance to keep going. I think they’ll make it!”

At this point the commentator makes ad lib comments and the different racers also ad lib their characters depending on who they are. As the runners race around the chapel they shout out things and do things that relate to their character quality.

Slothful starts out slowly after everyone has begun, falls asleep halfway through the race and snores loudly.

Enthusiasm runs to the track very excited and tries to encourage others, but to no avail. He finishes the race.

Perseverance limps around the track, slowly getting weaker and weaker, but finishes the race none the less.

Apathy continues his one-liner “I could care less” and neither enters the race nor finishes it.

Diligence quickly races around in smooth form and finishes.

Along the way, all of the runners encounter different temptations, they may be anything from a bad character inviting the runners to a party to an opportunity to cheat to just plain getting tired and wanting to quit. The temptations and trials demonstrate that the race is not easy! And there are things that can distract the runners from the goal of finishing the race. Even the “good” characters like Diligence will be tempted and encounter trials!

At the end of the race, Diligence, Perseverance, and Enthusiasm will all finish becoming the winners. They hold hands as they cross the finish line.

Conclusion: Our relationship with the Lord is like a race, he wants us to press on to know him. As you can tell, those who were really committed to the goal in mind were successful. Apathy had a “care-less” attitude and Slothful was too concerned about his own comfort. No matter what happens, we need to keep moving forward, he will help us as we go along when we get tired and temptations try to lure us away from where we are going. The good news is that God wants us to be

successful and he will help us, it is therefore very important to keep our eyes on him.

There are many ways to be diligent, enthusiastic and persevere through the race! Sharing our ideas with others, putting our whole selves into the special times at chapels and devotions to listen and participate, talking to God about the questions we have and our concerns for others, and reading the Bible are all things we can do to help us run the race and really get to know God.

This week in camp our challenge to you is to open your heart and mind to the Lord. He wants to help us run the race and finish victoriously!

## Rainbow Fish RV/ All Camp

Message: Don't be selfish, share with others.

Scripture: Philippians 2:3-4 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Characters: Narrator, Rainbow fish, Octopus, Starfish, 3(or 4) little Blue fish

A long way out in the deep blue sea there lived a fish. Not just an ordinary fish, but the most beautiful fish in the entire ocean. Her scales were every shade of blue and green and purple, with sparkling silver scales among them.

The other fish were amazed at her beauty. They called her Rainbow Fish. "Come on, Rainbow Fish, " they would call. "Come and play with us!" But the Rainbow Fish would just glide past, proud and silent, letting her scales shimmer.

One day, a little blue fish followed after her. "Rainbow Fish, " he called, "wait for me! Please give me one of your shiny scales. They are so wonderful, and you have so many."

"You want me to give you one of my special scales? Who do you think you are?" cried the Rainbow Fish. "Get away from me!"

Shocked, the little blue fish swam away. He was so upset, he told all his friends what had happened. From then on, no one would have anything to do with the Rainbow Fish. They turned away when she swam by.

What good are dazzling, shimmering scales with no one to admire them? Now she was the loneliest fish in the entire ocean.

One day she poured out her troubles to the starfish. "I really am beautiful. Why doesn't anybody like me?"

"I can't answer that for you," said the starfish. "But if you go beyond the coral reef to a deep cave you will find the wise octopus. Maybe he can help you."

The Rainbow Fish found the cave. It was very dark inside and she couldn't see anything. Then suddenly two eyes caught her in their glare and the octopus emerged from the darkness.

"I have been waiting for you," said the octopus with a deep voice. "The waves have told me your story. This is my advice. Give a glittering scale to each of the other fish. You will no longer be the most beautiful fish in the sea, but you will discover how to be happy."

"I can't...." the Rainbow Fish started to say, but the octopus has already disappeared into a dark cloud of ink.

Give away my scales? My beautiful shining scales? Never. How could I ever be happy without them?

Suddenly she felt the light touch of a fin. The little blue fish was back!

"Rainbow Fish, please don't be angry. I just want one little scale."

The Rainbow fish wavered. Only one very very small shimmering scale, she thought. Well, maybe I wouldn't miss just one.

Carefully, the Rainbow Fish pulled out the smallest scale and gave it to the little blue fish.

"Thank you! Thank you very much!" The little blue fish bubbled playfully, as he tucked the shiny scale among his blue ones.

A rather peculiar feeling came over the Rainbow Fish. For a long time she watched the little blue fish swim back and forth with this new scale glittering in the water.

The little blue fish whizzed through the ocean with his scale flashing, so it didn't take long before the Rainbow Fish was surrounded by the other fish. Everyone wanted a glittering scale.

The Rainbow Fish shared her scales left and right. And the more she gave away, the more delighted she became. When the water around her filled with glimmering scales, she at last felt at home among the other fish.

Finally the Rainbow Fish had only one shining scale left. Her most prized possessions had been given away, yet she was very happy.

"Come on, Rainbow Fish," they called. "Come and play with us!"

"Here I come," said the Rainbow Fish and, happy as a splash, she swam off to join her friends.

Conclusion: When Rainbow fish was selfish it was hard to make friends and he was lonely. When we are mean to others it is hard for us to have friends also. God wants us to look for ways to be kind to other people. He asks us to think about the interests of others and to not be selfish. When we think about others and are kind to them we are following the "I'm Third Motto", putting God first and others above ourselves.

## **The Sneetches RV/All Camp (Monday, or Tuesday)**

- Message: Don't Judge others by their outward appearance.
- Scripture: Matthew 7:1-2 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."
- Characters: Narrator, 3 Star-bellied Sneetches, 3 Plain-bellied Sneetches, and Sylvester McMonkey McBean

Now the Star-bellied Sneetches had bellies with stars.  
The Plain-bellied Sneetches had none upon thars.  
The stars weren't so big; they were really quite small.  
You would think such a thing wouldn't matter at all.  
But because they had stars, all the Star-bellied Sneetches  
would brag, "We're the best kind of Sneetch on the beaches."

With their snoots in the air, they would sniff and they'd snort, "  
We'll have nothing to do with the plain-bellied sort."  
And whenever they met some, when they were out walking,  
they'd hike right on past them without even talking.

When the Star-bellied children went out to play ball,  
could the Plain-bellies join in their game? Not at all!  
You could only play ball if your bellies had stars,  
and the Plain-bellied children had none upon thars.

When the Star-bellied Sneetches had frankfurter roasts,  
or picnics or parties or marshmallow toasts,  
they never invited the Plain-bellied Sneetches.  
Left them out cold in the dark of the beaches.  
Kept them away; never let them come near,  
and that's how they treated them year after year.

Then one day, it seems, while the Plain-bellied Sneetches  
were moping, just moping alone on the beaches,  
sitting there, wishing their bellies had stars,  
up zipped a stranger in the strangest of cars.

"My friends, " he announced in a voice clear and keen,  
"My name is Sylvester McMonkey McBean.

I've heard of your troubles; I've heard you're unhappy.  
But I can fix that; I'm the fix-it-up chappie.  
I've come here to help you; I have what you need.  
My prices are low, and I work with great speed,  
and my work is one hundred per cent guaranteed."

Then quickly, Sylvester McMonkey McBean  
put together a very peculiar machine.  
Then he said, "You want stars like a Star-bellied Sneetch?  
My friends, you can have them . . . for three dollars each.  
Just hand me your money and climb on aboard."

They clambered inside and the big machine roared.  
It bonked. It clonked. It jerked. It berked.  
It bopped them around, but the thing really worked.  
When the Plain-bellied Sneetches popped out, they had stars!  
They actually did, they had stars upon thars!

Then they yelled at the ones who had stars from the start,  
"We're exactly like you; you can't tell us apart.  
We're all just the same now, you snooty old smarties.  
Now we can come to your frankfurter parties!"

"Good grief!" groaned the one who had stars from the first.  
"We're still the best Sneetches, and they are the worst.  
But how in the world will we know," they all frowned,  
"if which kind is what or the other way 'round?"

Then up stepped McBean with a very sly wink, and he said,  
"Things are not quite as bad as you think.  
You don't know who's who, that is perfectly true.  
But come with me, friends, do you know what I'll do?  
I'll make you again the best Sneetches on beaches,  
and all it will cost you is ten dollars eaches.

Belly stars are no longer in style, " said McBean.  
"What you need is a trip through my stars-off machine.  
This wondrous contraption will take off your stars,  
so you won't look like Sneetches who have them on thars."

That handy machine, working very precisely,  
removed all the stars from their bellies quite nicely.  
Then, with snoots in the air, they paraded about.  
They opened their beaks and proceeded to shout,

"We now know who's who, and there isn't a doubt,  
the best kind of Sneetches are Sneetches without."

Then, of course those with stars all got frightfully mad.  
To be wearing a star now was frightfully bad.  
Then, of course old Sylvester McMonkey McBean  
invited them into his stars-off machine.  
Then, of course from then on, you can probably guess,  
things really got into a horrible mess.

All the rest of the day on those wild screaming beaches,  
the Fix-it-up-Chappie was fixing up Sneetches.  
Off again, on again, in again, out again,  
through the machine and back round about again,  
still paying money, still running through,  
changing their stars every minute or two,  
until neither the Plain- nor the Star-bellies knew  
whether this one was that one or that one was this one  
or which one was what one or what one was who!

Then, when every last cent of their money was spent,  
the Fix-It-Up-Chappie packed up and he went.  
And he laughed as he drove in his car up the beach,  
"They never will learn; no, you can't teach a Sneetch!"

But McBean was quite wrong, I'm quite happy to say,  
the Sneetches got quite a bit smarter that day.  
That day, they decided that Sneetches are Sneetches,  
and no kind of Sneetch is the BEST on the beaches.  
That day, all the Sneetches forgot about stars,  
and whether they had one or not upon thars.

Conclusion: We can learn a valuable lesson from these sneetches. At first the sneetches were mean to each other and treated each other differently. The ones without the stars weren't treated as well as those with the stars. That seems kind of silly to us, but sometimes we also judge people by their outward appearance. We may not judge them by whether or not they have stars on their bellies, but by the clothes they wear, or the way they look. You saw how silly it was when the star bellied sneetches were unfriendly to the ones without stars...and that is how God sees us when we judge others.

The great part about this story is that the sneetches learned the error of their ways, when they decided that sneetches are sneetches, they forgot about stars and realized they were really all

the same. Let's be like the sneetches, lets be respectful and kind to each other. God has created each and every one of us, and we are ALL different, and that makes us special and unique. So I challenge all of us to be respectful and kind to everyone, because no one is better than anyone else because we are all God's creation. In God's eyes we all look the same.

## Seeing God Differently (Under Construction)

**Message:** Everybody has a different experience with God. These cumulative experiences demonstrate God's abounding love for us and reflect God's desire to develop a personalized relationship with all of us.

**Scripture:** The bible tells in in Genesis 1:27 that "God created man in his own image." He created us exactly how he wants us to be, and the avenues in which we best reach him. Through our different experiences with him, we reflect God's abounding love, and his desire, as well as our own, to have a personal relationship with him.

**Characters:** 1 person struggling with how to imagine God  
5 people who experience God in different ways (ex: through nature, through music, through relationships, through healing). Make sure the people you select aren't acting out parts, but have genuine connections with the things they describe.

**Sample Skit** (your skit may be different depending on the people you select)

After the song right before the skit is finished, everybody on the stage thanks the worship leader for leading worship, and 4 people depart in different directions off of the stage. 1 person remains looking at the picture of Jesus, unable to connect, while the worship leader packs up his guitar. The worship leader approaches the person looking at the picture, and asks her what she's doing. After describing her inability to connect with the picture on the wall, and her desire to know who God is, the worship leader describes how he experiences God through music, providing a few examples of different worship services he's led where he's experienced the presence of God. He then tells her to go to the coffee shop on the corner to find 3 other people who may be able to help her. At the coffee shop she finds 2 friends talking to one another about their family. She explains her dilemma and they proceed to tell her how they experience God in their relationships with their friends and family, providing specific examples. Overhearing the conversation, one of the members of the worship team who is also at the coffee shop tells her about how she experiences God through blogging. The blogger then instructs her to find a teacher at the school down the street who may be able to help her. On her way, she struggles to reconcile all the differences between her friends' experiences. As she continues towards the school she runs into another one of her friends. She describes her struggle and the friend talks about his experience with God in nature. She proceeds to the school to talk to the teacher about her dilemma, and the teacher talks about experiencing God through teaching. She thanks the teacher, and heads back to the church. When she gets there, she comes to the conclusion that everyone has a different experience with God, and that the cumulative experiences add to up to reflect both God's love for us, and his interest in developing a personal relationship with us at which point the group reconvenes and worship starts again.

**Wrap up:**

All of us are familiar with the dominant image of Jesus, a white European male with flowing white robes, radiant brown hair, and a finely trimmed beard, but how many of you connect with that image? How many of you know that people from the Middle East, where Jesus comes

from, aren't White? Jesus was poor, do you think he could afford shampoo and conditioner, a beard trimmer, or Clorox bleach for his robes? The actual images that we see of Jesus Christ have been created to make people feel comfortable, to create a character that people can relate to. We don't love Jesus because he's a good-looking guy in those pretty pictures in the church. We love him for what he does for us, the relationship we have with him. If I asked you to tell me about your best friend, where would you start? With his or her hair color, or that awesome time you had last summer at camp? Our experiences with faith are much like our experiences with our best friend. Nobody has had the same experience, but everybody's are special. Similarly, your experience may be incredibly special to you, but that doesn't make it more special than somebody else's. (Wrap up, personal testimony). God created all of us, our interests and our personalities. We just need to open our eyes and see that he is all around. Not just in the church and chapels, but on the field or the stage, in our homes and our schools. Faith is more than an image or a place, it's an experience, a different experience for everybody, an experience that God wants to share with us. The Bible tells us in Genesis 1:27 that "God created man in his own image." He created us exactly how he wants us to be, and the avenues in which we best reach him. Through our different experiences with him, we reflect God's abounding love, and his desire, as well as our own, to have a personal relationship with him.

## Stuck in Sin RV/LV

**Message:** Sometimes we make choices that are not good and we end up stuck in sin. This doesn't please God and isn't good for us! Only Jesus can get us out of sin. Living in the sin, staying put right where we are, is NOT what God wants us to do.

**Scripture:** Psalm 32:5 "Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord'- and you forgave the guilt of my sin."

1 John 1:9 "But if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

**Characters:** 3 people stuck in sin, 1 normal person, 1 strongman, 1 musician/singer, 1 person of prayer (Post 2 signs labeled "sin" above the chapel bench.)

Two people come walking onto the stage talking with each other when they notice how cozy the benches labeled 'sin' appear. They debate whether or not they should take a seat in the sin as they are on their way to a destination (can be symbolic such as heaven, church, etc.). They decide after a short debate that the sin does look tempting as it looks like a good time [can say something such as, "I know that it would be wrong to get into sin, but it does look like fun and if we only do it once it will be ok"]. The two sit on the bench and get into the sin. When they are sitting a dialog should take place with one character feeling guilty and uncomfortable and wanting to leave while the other agrees, he expresses that they should stay for just a few more moments. When they decide to get up and leave, they seem to be stuck to the benches ('sin') and can't get out. They quickly become distressed as they are stuck somewhere they shouldn't be and they aren't enjoying it. NOTE: Be sure that those who are stuck in sin do not make it look like fun and that they are enjoying it. That will defeat the entire purpose of this message.

One by one, the different characters come onto stage realize that there are two people stuck in sin and attempt to get them out.

**Normal Person:** tries to pull and comes to the conclusion that they need someone very strong to pull them out

**Strongman:** Comes across cocky saying it will be easy for him to pull them out of sin but no matter how hard he tries, he can't pull them out.

**Musician / Singer:** Sings 'church songs' in attempt to get them out, but that doesn't work either.

**Person of Prayer:** when realizes that they are stuck in sin, he/she tells them that the only way out of sin is through faith in Jesus and repentance – asking him to forgive them for their sins. They go ahead and ask God to forgive them for getting into sin and decide to live for Him. After their prayer they easily hop out of sin and thank God!

Conclusion: There are times in all of our lives when we have done things we know we shouldn't have and have gotten 'stuck in sin.' We can try many different things to get out of it, or even pretend that we aren't in it, but there is only one person who can save us from our sin. That person is Jesus Christ, God's son! If we confess our sins to Him and ask his forgiveness, he will forgive us and free us from that sin. Now we must do our best to stay away from sin in the first place!

## Talking to God RV/LV

Message: Prayer is important.

Adaptations: Carrier Pigeon, one person trying to get ahold of God

Scripture: Psalm 17:6 "God, I call out to you because you will answer me. Listen to me. Hear my prayer."

Eph. 6:18 "At all times, pray by the power of the Spirit. Pray all kinds of prayers. Be watchful, so that you can pray. Always keep on praying for all of God's people."

Characters: four people

Three people are trying to talk to God in three different ways: 1) email 2) cell phone, 3) airplane banner. But they are not getting through. (There can be more or different ways also.) A fourth person prays to God. At the end, the other three realize the way to get in contact with God is through prayer.

First Person: (getting up from bed) what a great morning, the sun is shining, birds are singing, and I'm...Not sweating. I should begin the day talking to God, telling him how wonderful his creation is. I will quickly email God. What is God's email address? Wonder if any of my friends on Myspace have God as a friend?  
(couple of minutes pass) No one knows God's email address. Now, what do I do?

Second Person: (outside next to their car) can't believe it, I locked my keys in my car, can't find my sunglasses, and I have a flat tire. The tow truck is caught in traffic. What else can go wrong? I need help? I know, I will quickly phone God with my cell phone. The number is 1-800-call-God. There is no response! I think it is the wrong number. How can I talk to God?

Third Person: (at airport) I am so excited; this is my first time flying a plane with a banner. It reads "Hey God can you hear me? We need to talk." Here I go (act as if flying around with banner tied behind). Well, I don't think God is working? What can I do?

Fourth Person: (at camp) Here at camp I have learned how to talk to God. God always hears us. There are several times I can pray to God. In the morning after I shower, I pray to God. We sing our graces for meals. I pray before I climb Mt. Wood. During cabin devotions I pray silently as well as pray together with my cabin mates. All I have to do to talk with God is pray.

Close off the skit with the three realizing they only have to pray to talk to God

Conclusion: The way that each individual can communicate with God is through prayer. God is there any time at any place to listen and talk to you. Through prayer you can thank God, lift up your struggles to Him, tell Him your needs, or just simply talk to Him like you would a friend.

## **The Tecumseh Super Heroes RV/All Camp**

**Message:** Putting each other down hurts the whole group. Encouraging one another helps us all be a better team.

**Scripture:** Romans 12:16-18 “Live in harmony with each other. Don’t try to act important, but enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don’t think you know it all! Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do your part to live in peace with everyone, as much as possible.”

**Characters:** Baked Oatmeal Girl, Ultimate Frisbee Man, Blobber Boy, Gymp Girl, Scott BrosMan, Narrator ( Super Heroes can differ)

**Narrator:** All was peaceful in Tecumseh Town while our super heroes enjoyed a nice rest hour.

**Baked Oatmeal Girl:** I am Baked Oatmeal Girl! I give nutrition to campers and staff all across Tecumseh Town! When people are hungry at breakfast – I am there to fill them up! With or without raisins, I will get the job done!

**Blobber Boy:** I am Blobber Boy! I can blob kids far and wide! I will bounce you off with my inflatable powers!

**Gymp Girl:** I am Gymp Girl! I keep campers quiet throughout the entire rest hour! My gyming powers hold the most hyper Brave’s attention! At the same time I will confound the smartest of counselors with my intricate patterns!

**Ult. Frisbee Man:** I am Ultimate Frisbee Man! I can throw the farthest Frisbee with precise accuracy! I can take the longest two steps ever seen and then throw directly to my target!

The super heroes then compare themselves to one another and begin to argue about who’s powers are the greatest. At the end of their discussion they all look rejected.

**Narrator:** Just then disaster struck!

**Scott Bros Man:** Super Heroes! Irving the Indian has been kidnapped! You must help Tecumseh Town to find our beloved mascot!

The super heroes look lethargic and tell Bros Man that they are incapable of helping him

out. They all feel worthless.

Bros Man:                   What has happened to you all?

They tell him that they have all made fun of one another and argued.

Bros Man:                   Oh no! This is horrible! Don't you see what is happening? When you put each other down like that and compare yourselves to one another, you begin to believe the mean things you tell each other! This makes your powers weaker! I know just what to do! I must get the Truth Teller Phaser!

Bros Man pulls out his truth Teller Phaser and aims it at each super hero. As he "shoots" each one, he tells them the truth about themselves such as, "You are Blobber Boy! You can blob with the greatest of force!" As he tells each of the super heroes of their great worth, each of them regains his powers.

Once all of the super heroes are revived they head off to find Irving the Indian.

Narrator:                   And so with Scott Bros Man's help our heroes were once again on patrol and saving the world one disaster at a time.

Conclusion:                We have an opportunity to build our friends up by encouraging them and letting them know how much we appreciate them. When we tear others down by saying mean things or by trying to prove that we are better than them, it only hurts us all in the end. The things we say to each other are powerful – you can be like Scott Bros Man by telling your friends how much you like them and reminding them of all of the great things that make them uniquely who they are. A good friend will always build others up like Scott Bros Man did.

## The Ragman LV

The Message: Jesus bears our sins

Scripture: Isaiah 53:4-5 "Surely He has borne our sicknesses and carried our pains ...He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."

Characters: The Ragman (Jesus), Narrator, Person following Ragman, Sobbing Woman, Bleeding Girl, Veteran, Drunk,

I saw a strange sight. I stumbled upon a story most strange, like nothing my life, my street sense, my sly tongue had ever prepared me for. Hush, child. Hush, now, and I will tell it to you. Even before the dawn one Friday morning I noticed a young man, handsome and strong, walking the alleys of our City. He was pulling an old cart filled with clothes both bright and new, and he was calling in a clear, tenor voice: "Rags!" (Ah, the air was foul and the first light filthy to be crossed by such sweet music.) "Rags! New rags for old! I take your tired rags! Rags!" "Now, this is a wonder," I thought to myself, for the man stood six-feet-four, and his arms were like tree limbs, hard and muscular, and his eyes flashed intelligence. Could he find no better job than this, to be a ragman in the inner city?

I followed him. My curiosity drove me. And I wasn't disappointed. Soon the Ragman saw a woman sitting on her back porch. She was sobbing into a handkerchief, sighing, and shedding a thousand tears. Her knees and elbows made a sad X. Her shoulders shook. Her heart was breaking. The Ragman stopped his cart. Quietly, he walked to the woman, stepping round tin cans, dead toys, and Pampers. "Give me your rag," he said so gently, "and I'll give you another." He slipped the handkerchief from her eyes. She looked up, and he laid across her palm a linen cloth so clean and new that it shined. She blinked from the gift to the giver. Then, as he began to pull his cart again, the Ragman did a strange thing: he put her stained handkerchief to his own face; and then HE began to weep, to sob as grievously as she had done, his shoulders shaking. Yet she was left without a tear. "This IS a wonder," I breathed to myself, and I followed the sobbing Ragman like a child who cannot turn away from mystery.

"Rags! Rags! New rags for old!" In a little while, when the sky showed grey behind the rooftops and I could see the shredded curtains hanging out black windows, the Ragman came upon a girl whose head was wrapped in a bandage, whose eyes were empty. Blood soaked her bandage. A single line of blood ran down her cheek. Now the tall Ragman looked upon this child with pity, and he drew a lovely yellow bonnet from his cart. "Give me your rag," he said, tracing his own line on her cheek, "and I'll give you mine." The child could only gaze at him while he loosened the bandage, removed it, and tied it to his own head. The bonnet he set on hers. And I gasped at what I saw: for with the bandage went the wound! Against his brow it ran a darker,

more substantial blood - his own! "Rags! Rags! I take old rags!" cried the sobbing, bleeding, strong, intelligent Ragman.

The sun hurt both the sky, now, and my eyes; the Ragman seemed more and more to hurry. "Are you going to work?" he asked a man who leaned against a telephone pole. The man shook his head. The Ragman pressed him: "Do you have a job?" "Are you crazy?" sneered the other. He pulled away from the pole, revealing the right sleeve of his jacket - flat, the cuff stuffed into the pocket. He had no arm. "So," said the Ragman. "Give me your jacket, and I'll give you mine." Such quiet authority in his voice! The one-armed man took off his jacket. So did the Ragman - and I trembled at what I saw: for the Ragman's arm stayed in its sleeve, and when the other put it on he had two good arms, thick as tree limbs; but the Ragman had only one. "Go to work," he said.

After that he found a drunk, lying unconscious beneath an army blanket, and old man, hunched, wizened, and sick. He took that blanket and wrapped it round himself, but for the drunk he left new clothes. And now I had to run to keep up with the Ragman. Though he was weeping uncontrollably, and bleeding freely at the forehead, pulling his cart with one arm, stumbling for drunkenness, falling again and again, exhausted, old, and sick, yet he went with terrible speed.

On spider's legs he skittered through the alleys of the City, this mile and the next, until he came to its limits, and then he rushed beyond. I wept to see the change in this man. I hurt to see his sorrow. And yet I needed to see where he was going in such haste, perhaps to know what drove him so. The little old Ragman - he came to a landfill. He came to the garbage pits. And then I wanted to help him in what he did, but I hung back, hiding. He climbed a hill. With tormented labor he cleared a little space on that hill. Then he sighed. He lay down. He pillowed his head on a handkerchief and a jacket. He covered his bones with an army blanket. And he died. Oh, how I cried to witness that death! I slumped in a junked car and wailed and mourned as one who has no hope - because I had come to love the Ragman. Every other face had faded in the wonder of this man, and I cherished him; but he died. I sobbed myself to sleep. I did not know - how could I know?

I slept through Friday night and Saturday and its night, too. But then, on Sunday morning, I was wakened by violence. Light - pure, hard, demanding light - slammed against my sour face, and I blinked, and I looked, and I saw the last and the first wonder of all. There was the Ragman, folding the blanket most carefully, a scar on his forehead, but alive! And, besides that, healthy! There was no sign of sorrow nor of age, and all the rags that he had gathered shined for cleanliness. Well, then I lowered my head and trembling for all that I had seen, I myself walked up to the Ragman. I told him my name with shame, for I was a sorry figure next to him. Then I took off all my clothes in that place, and I said to him with dear yearning in voice: "Dress me." He dressed me. My Lord, he put new rags on me, and I am a wonder beside him. The Ragman, the Ragman, THE CHRIST

## These Hands Skit LV

Adaptations: Character Monologues can continually change; every time it's done it's a little different. Core Character are gossip, anger, too busy, materialistic.

(These hands monologues are cut out, and given to counselors who are playing the part ahead of time so ideally, their part is memorized by the chapel and hopefully by the chapel practice!)

Woman #1: These hands. From the time I wake up to the time I go to bed, these hands are moving. Between the pressure of staying on top of academics and maintaining my GPA for my scholarship and the demands of my work hours to pay for what my scholarship doesn't cover, these hands never stop. These hands don't know how to say "no" to great volunteer opportunities, regardless of how little time and energy they have left. How did I reach this point? I feel like I am in a race...only I'm the only runner...and the end is nowhere in sight. These hands feel so overwhelmed and exhausted. When will I ever get a rest for these hands?

Student: These hands are hard to control. I know God wants me to guard my heart, but some things that are wrong feel so right. My boyfriend/girlfriend and I talk about boundaries in our relationship, but these hands fly right past them. I really wanted to be different and to be careful, but I am not strong enough. Is it too late to make things right now? I think I love him/her. How do you really show someone that you love them? What do I do with these feelings? How can I stop these hands?

Man #1: These hands have led me to places I never should have gone. They've flipped through magazines I never should have looked at. In fact, that's where it started all the way back in high school. Now, I can't seem to keep these fingers from typing in the same old web addresses. I don't want anyone to know. I mean, I'm a good person. Really! Except for this one thing. I've been visiting these sites off and on for years. But now? Now, it feels like it's all I think about! How did it get here? How do I erase all this from my mind? How do I restrain these hands . . . ?

Woman #2: These hands have written things I never thought I would write. So mean! I didn't even know I could say such things! First, it was email. Then, Facebook. Now, I'm even texting this stuff. Judgment, lies, slander . . . it's like I forget that when I write them, there's a real person reading it. I wish it wasn't even my heart. I've hurt so many people. Am I just a gossip? Is it possible to change my heart with these hands . . .

Man #2: These hands. I remember the first time they picked up a drink. I remember thinking how it was just part of having fun. What I don't remember is when exactly it stopped being fun. When did opening a bottle become my way of life? I know I used to live for more than the next drink. I don't even know who my friends are anymore. My family gave up on me a long time ago. I can't say that I blame them, though it still makes me so mad. How can I stop these hands...?

Woman #3: These hands have accumulated so much stuff. Closets full of clothes and a storage locker full of things I can't get rid of. I can never get enough. I wish my already big house was bigger and newer. I love shoes. Every color. Every season. You can never have enough shoes . . . And big payments. Credit card debt. I don't even know how much I actually spend and would probably be embarrassed if others saw my bank account. But it is still never enough. I see advertisements and try to be satisfied, but there is always something better that someone else has and I want it. If only I won the lottery or made more money. Seriously . . . now there is an iPad 3. Every time I buy something else I think it will make me happy, but it doesn't. So empty . . . my heart, these hands . . .

Man #3: These hands . . . (punch fist into hand) I get so angry, I just want to punch someone! Or at least, something. One minute I'm perfectly fine and then the next I'm out of control. It's like anything can set me off! My dad asks me to do something I don't want to do, someone bumps into me at the store, or some guy talks to my girlfriend in a way I don't like. Is something wrong with me? I just can't control these hands . . .

Jesus: These hands? These hands were nailed to a cross for you. For your every sin, these hands bled . . . for every wrong word, every bad thought, and every selfish action. For every burden you carry, I gave up my hands for you.

You see, I carried your pains, your disfigurements, all the things you struggle with. I was ripped, torn, and crushed on a cross for you. God piled on me all of your sins, everything you've done wrong. I was beaten and tortured for you, and I died. But your brokenness was upon me when I died and it died too. You don't have to live broken any more.

My hands can bring you healing. These hands can bring forgiveness. These hands can bring victory over every thing that enslaves you. In these hands, you can have life, freedom, . . . closeness with the God who created you.

You're just like sheep who've wandered off and gotten lost. You have done your own thing and gone your own way. But it doesn't have to be this way. Come back!

Your sin was not the end for me. Death could not stop me. The grave could not hold me. And your mistakes are not the end of you either. I'm alive and you can be too!

I am offering you a place in my Story. I am offering you a spot in my Kingdom. I offer you a new life. A full life! Call on Me! Follow Me! Take My Hand!

Wrap-up:

I want everyone to put their hands palms facing up in front of them (demonstrate). These hands in front of you have a choice. A choice to receive the grace and forgiveness offered to us by Jesus through His sacrifice. A choice to return to Him. A choice to take His hand and let Him guide you through life.

These hands in front of you have great opportunity. The opportunity to impact hundreds of lives this summer through giving of yourself. The opportunity to lead by example. The opportunity to put love into action and lead others to receive the same grace you received.

These hands in front of you have great potential. Great potential to rise above. Great potential to be the very hands of Jesus. Great potential that can be realized only through these hands.

"Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out; yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good; and yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now."  
~Saint Teresa of Avila

John 14:12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

## The Three Trees RV/LV

**Message:** God has a plan for us, it is to glorify him. There is no higher calling than to glorify the Lord.

**Scripture:** 2 Timothy 2:20-21 "In a wealthy home some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. If you keep yourself pure, you will be a utensil God can use for his purpose. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work."

Ephesians 3:20 "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!"

**Characters:** Narrator, 3 trees, 3 lumberjacks, craftsmen to make the boat, manger and cross

**Story:** Once upon a mountain top, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up. The first little tree looked up at the stars and said: "I want to hold treasure. I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I'll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!" The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. "I want to be traveling mighty waters and carrying powerful kings. I'll be the strongest ship in the world! The third little tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and women worked in a busy town. I don't want to leave the mountain top at all. I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me they'll raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world.

Years, passed. The rain came, the sun shone and the little trees grew tall. One day three wood cutters climbed the mountain. The first wood cutter looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining ax, the first tree fell. "Now I shall make a beautiful chest, I shall hold wonderful treasure!" the first tree said.

The second wood cutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong. It's perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining ax, the second tree fell. "Now I shall sail mighty waters!" thought the second tree. "I shall be a strong ship for mighty kings!"

The third tree felt her heart sink when the last wood cutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to heaven. But the wood cutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me." He muttered. With a swoop of his shining ax, the third tree fell.

The first tree rejoiced when the wood cutter brought her to a carpenter's shop. But the carpenter fashioned the tree into a feed box for animals. The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold, or treasure. She was coated with saw dust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals. The second tree smiled when the wood cutter took her to a shipyard, but no mighty sailing ship was made that day. Instead the once strong tree was hammered and awed into a simple fishing boat. She was too small and too weak to sail to an ocean, or even a river, instead she was taken to a little lake. The third tree was confused when the wood cutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard. "What happened?" The once tall tree wondered. "All I ever wanted was to stay on the mountain top and point to God..."

Many days and nights passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams. But one night, golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feed box. "I wish I could make a cradle for him." Her husband whispered. The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the smooth and sturdy wood. "This manger is beautiful." She said. And suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

One evening a tired traveler and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveler fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed out into the lake. Soon a thundering and a thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. She knew she did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through the wind and the rain. The tired man awoke. He stood up, stretched out his hand, and said, "Peace." The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun. And suddenly the second tree knew he was carrying the king of heaven and earth.

One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten wood pile. She flinched as she was carried through an angry jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hand to her. She felt ugly and harsh and cruel. But on Sunday morning, when the sun rose and the earth trembled with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything. It had made the third tree strong. And every time people thought of the third tree, they would think of God. That was better than being the tallest tree in the world.

**Conclusion:** God has a plan for your life. It may not line up with the plans that we have made for ourselves, but when we realize that God is in control and see what he is doing, we realize that he is using us in ways that are much greater than we could have ever dreamed. Therefore, it is important that we give God control of our lives and do as He asks us instead of living our lives as we want to. It is best when he is the one in control!

## Trader Jim

Message: Telling the truth is always the best option you have.

Scripture: Proverbs 21:28 "A false witness will perish, but the man who listens to the truth will speak forever."  
Proverbs 10:9 "He who walks in integrity walks securely..."

Characters: Narrator, Trader Jim, Indian trader, Other Indians

Go back with me in time to the year 1810. During this time Indiana was part of the frontier, and life here was wild. But this story is about a young man named Jim, who travels west to find his fortune as a trapper. Jim had been trapping on the Pennsylvania farm all his life, he decided to travel to the Indiana territory and try his luck.

After many days of travel, Jim found himself camped on a small rise overlooking a creek that flowed into the Tippe. He built a small cabin with just a blanket across the doorway. As he looked around the next morning he saw signs of many animals. And soon he set up his trap lines, up and down the creek and along the river.

But as the months passed, Jim was very disappointed. He was having almost no luck with his trapping and he missed his family greatly. To his great dissatisfaction, it also appeared that many of his traps had been sprung on purpose and he often found moccasin prints nearby. Jim prayed often that God would change his luck, but it seemed to do no good.

Well just a few days later, shortly after dawn, Jim was awakened by the sound of horses' hooves outside his cabin. He quietly rolled to the door and gently pulled back just a bit of the blanket and peeked outside. There sitting on his horse was a Shawnee brave. Jim's first inclination was to grab his rifle. But he figured if the Indian meant him any harm, he would have tried to kill him in his sleep. So Jim pulled on his boots and calmly stepped out of the cabin, going first to where he had set his campfire the night before. He blew on the coals as he dropped some dry tinder on them and the fire leapt to flame. He set the coffee pot on and only then did he turn and acknowledge the Indian's presence. He motioned for the Indian to come forward to the fire.

The Indian dismounted and went to his second horse, which was laden with furs. He untied a large bundle of beaver pelts and brought them forward, laying them by the fire and speaking to Jim. Jim couldn't understand the Shawnee tongue, but he got the impression that he should count the beaver pelts. So he kneeled down and counted the stack of prime beaver pelts: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 pelts. So using his hands he indicated to the Indian that there were 12 pelts. But the Indian shook his head no and indicated that there were only 11 pelts. So Jim counted again and sure enough there were 12 pelts. But again the Indian said no, only 11. Well Jim couldn't argue so he decided to bring out his trade goods.

Jim brought out a wooden box with a hinged lid. When he opened the top, the trade beads inside glittered in the morning sun. Jim indicated to the Indian that the beads were worth 1 pelt per handful.

Then Jim sat down by the fire and motioned for the Indian to inspect the goods. In just a short time the Indian made his choices. He picked 11 handfuls of beads and placed them in a bag. He walked to his packhorse and began to tie the bag of beads to where the pelts had been before. All the while thoughts were racing through Jim's mind. "I'm sure he had 12 pelts, but he only thought he had 11, so I guess he got what he expected. But he really did have 12 pelts." So just as quick as a squirrel, Jim stood up, reached into the box of Trade Beads and took up a handful. He walked quickly to the Indian who had now mounted his horse and was about to ride away. Jim held out the beads to him and the Indian looked at him for a moment, then nodded and opened his bag that was tied to the horse. Jim placed the beads inside.

Once he had done so, the Indian dismounted and went back to his packhorse. He had been testing Jim, and Jim passed. The Indian now knew Jim would be an honest trader. He untied his other furs and brought them forward to trade. Jim traded for all the pelts. Soon other Indians showed up with furs and Jim traded with them.

Jim continued to trade with the Indians, many of whom became his friends. He also used his tools to build a much better cabin. This one was larger and had a fireplace. On the bottom floor he set up his trading post, and he lived in the loft above. And for many years the Indians knew him as Trader Jim. The cabin that he lived in is now known as ghost cabin.

**Conclusion:** The course of your life can be changed with choices you make in just an instant. Why did Jim make that choice? It was an easy and quick choice because Jim had made honesty a habit. Making right choices is part of being Third, because we want to make all our choices ones that will be pleasing in God's sight. Your choices determine the direction of your life. Always make choices that would please God and make it a habit of doing so. If you do you will find that you have a wonderful life and you will be blessed by God in many ways.

## The Wemmicks LV/ All Camp

Message: People sometimes look at the outward appearance, but God looks at your heart.

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:7 "...The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Characters: Narrator, 3 Wemmicks, Punchinello, Lucia, Eli

The Wemmicks were small wooden people. Each of the wooden people was carved by a woodworker named Eli. His workshop sat on a hill overlooking their village. Every Wemmick was different. Some had big noses, others had large eyes. Some were tall and others were short. Some wore hats, others wore coats. But all were made by the same carver and all lived in the village.

And all day, every day, the Wemmicks did the same thing: They gave each other stickers. Each Wemmick had a box of golden star stickers and a box of gray dot stickers. Up and down the streets all over the city, people could be seen sticking stars or dots on one another.

The pretty ones, those with smooth wood and fine paint, always got stars. But if the wood was rough or the paint chipped, the Wemmicks gave dots. The talented ones got stars, too. Some could lift big sticks high above their heads or jump over tall boxes. Still others knew big words or could sing very pretty songs. Everyone gave them stars.

Some Wemmicks had stars all over them! Every time they got a star it made them feel so good that they did something else and got another star. Others, though, could do little. They got dots.

Punchinello was one of these. He tried to jump high like the others, but he always fell. And when he fell, the others would gather around and give him dots. Sometimes when he fell, it would scar his wood, so the people would give him more dots. He would try to explain why he fell and say something silly, and the Wemmicks would give him more dots.

After a while he had so many dots that he didn't want to go outside. He was afraid he would do something dumb such as forget his hat or step in the water, and then people would give him another dot. In fact, he had so many gray dots that some people would come up and give him one without reason.

"He deserves lots of dots," the wooden people would agree with one another.

"He's not a good wooden person."

After a while Punchinello believed them. "I'm not a good wemmick," he would say. The few times he went outside, he hung around other Wemmicks who had a lot of dots. He felt better around them.

One day he met a Wemmick who was unlike any he'd ever met. She had no dots or stars. She was just wooden. Her name was Lulia.

It wasn't that people didn't try to give her stickers; it's just that the stickers didn't stick. Some admired Lulia for having no dots, so they would run up and give her a star. But it would fall off. Some would look down on her for having no stars, so they would give her a dot. But it wouldn't stay either.

"That's the way I want to be," thought Punchinello. "I don't want anyone's marks." So he asked the stickerless Wemmick how she did it.

"It's easy," Lulia replied. "every day I go see Eli."

"Eli?"

"Yes, Eli. The woodcarver. I sit in the workshop with him."

"Why?"

"Why don't you find out for yourself? Go up the hill. He's there. "

And with that the Wemmick with no marks turned and skipped away.

"But he won't want to see me!" Punchinello cried out.

Lulia didn't hear. So Punchinello went home. He sat near a window and watched the wooden people as they scurried around giving each other stars and dots.

"It's not right," he muttered to himself. And he resolved to go see Eli.

He walked up the narrow path to the top of the hill and stepped into the big shop. His wooden eyes widened at the size of everything. The stool was as tall as he was. He had to stretch on his tiptoes to see the top of the workbench. A hammer was as long as his arm. Punchinello swallowed hard.

"I'm not staying here!" and he turned to leave. Then he heard his name.

"Punchinello?" The voice was deep and strong.

Punchinello stopped.

"Punchinello! How good to see you. Come and let me have a look at you."

Punchinello turned slowly and looked at the large bearded craftsman.

"You know my name?" the little Wemmick asked.

"Of course I do. I made you."

Eli stooped down and picked him up and set him on the bench. "Hmm, " he spoke thoughtfully as he inspected the gray circles. "Looks like you've been given some bad marks."

"I didn't mean to, Eli. I really tried hard."

"Oh, you don't have to defend yourself to me. I don't care what the other Wemmicks think."

"You don't?"

"No, and you shouldn't either. Who are they to give stars or dots? They're Wemmicks just like you. What they think doesn't matter, Punchinello. All that matters is what I think. And I think you are pretty special."

Punchinello laughed. "Me, special? Why? I can't walk fast. I can't jump. My paint is peeling. Why do I matter to you?"

Eli looked at Punchinello, put his hands on those small wooden shoulders, and spoke very slowly. "Because you're mine. That's why you matter to me."

Punchinello had never had anyone look at him like this--much less his maker. He didn't know what to say.

"Every day I've been hoping you'd come," Eli explained.

"I came because I met someone who had no marks."

"I know. She told me about you."

"Why don't the stickers stay on her?"

"Because she has decided that what I think is more important than what they think. The stickers only stick if you let them."

"What?"

"The stickers only stick if they matter to you. The more you trust my love, the less you care about the stickers."

"I'm not sure I understand."

"You will, but it will take time. You've got a lot of marks. For now, just come to see me every day and let me remind you how much I care."

Eli lifted Punchinello off the bench and set him on the ground.

"Remember," Eli said as the Wemmick walked out the door. "You ARE special because I made you. And I don't make mistakes."

Punchinello didn't stop, but in his heart he thought, "I think he really means it." And when he did, a dot fell to the ground.

And each time he remembered what Eli told him and each time he went to visit and talk with Eli one of Punchinello's dots would fall off.

Conclusion: In the story Eli is representing God and when Lucia trusted in Him the dots (representing the mean things people said) wouldn't stick to her. When we trust in God and understand that he created each of us and made us unique and special, "dots" don't stick to us. Trust in God and know that He created you and loves you just the way you are.

