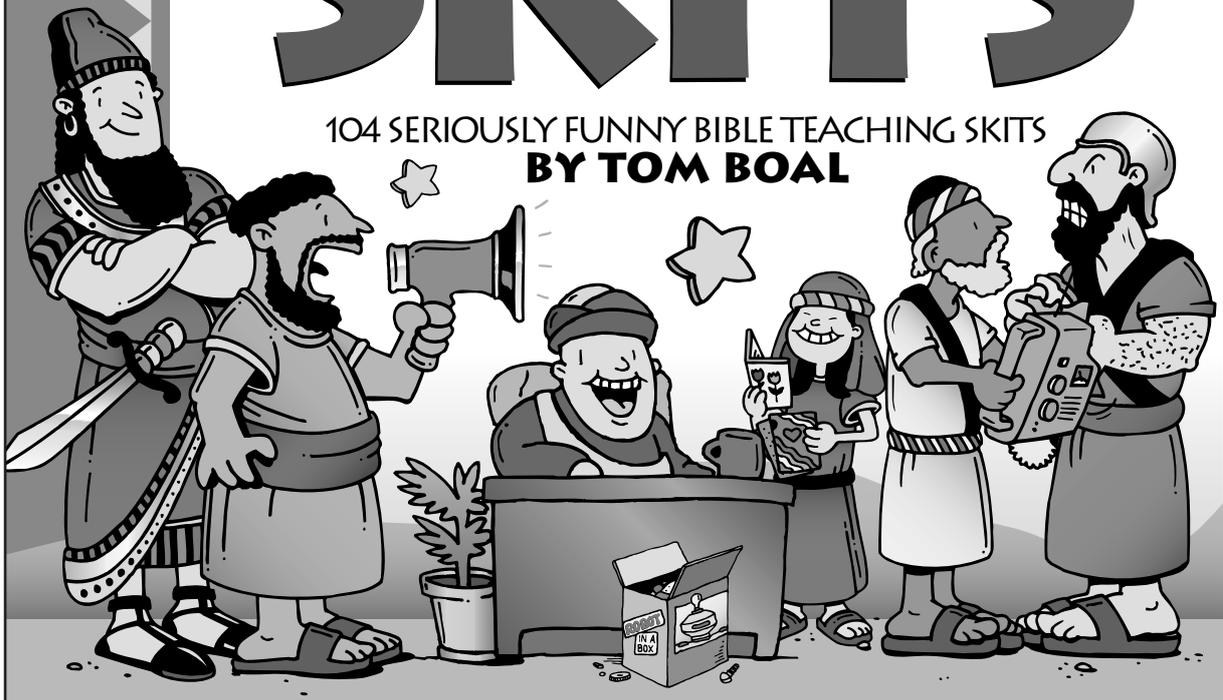


REPRODUCIBLE SKITS • FOR USE WITH AGES 10 TO ADULT

THE BIG BOOK OF BIBLE SKITS

104 SERIOUSLY FUNNY BIBLE TEACHING SKITS
BY TOM BOAL



Gospel Light

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USING THIS BOOK

BRING BIBLE STORIES TO LIFE!

Drama activities in a classroom are valuable learning opportunities because of the *process* group members experience, not because of the quality of the final performance. Bible stories come alive when acted out, and Bible truth is seen to be relevant when applied to contemporary situations. In addition:

- ▲ Acting out a situation will push group members to think about the application of Bible truth to a real-life circumstance.
- ▲ Dramatic activities provide a unique opportunity to briefly step into another person's shoes and experience some of his or her attitudes and feelings.

COPIES OF THE SKITS

Purchase of this book includes the right to make copies of the skits for those who will be involved in putting on the skits.

SKIT FEATURES

The skits contain the following features to help you prepare: **Scripture, suggested topics, Bible background, performance tips, discussion questions, characters list** and a **pronunciation guide** for those tough biblical names. Optional props are often suggested, but any real prop can be replaced by an imaginary one simply by miming accordingly.

CHOOSING A SKIT

The skits may be used in a variety of ways:

- ▲ to **summarize** a Bible story;
- ▲ to **illustrate** a concept or topic;
- ▲ to **introduce** a Bible character;
- ▲ to **reinforce** a Bible story or life application.

The skits will be enjoyed in a variety of settings by students from **ages 10 through adult**:

- ▲ Sunday School, churchtime or midweek programs;
- ▲ large or small groups;
- ▲ special events.

To help you find a skit that matches a topic or Bible story you will be studying, indexes list:

- ▲ **Bible characters** (p. 434);
- ▲ **Scripture references** (p. 440);
- ▲ **Topics** (p. 444).



GETTING READY

After you've chosen and reproduced copies of the skit for the participants, here are some tips for preparing to lead the group:

- ▲ Read the Scripture passage. Familiarize yourself with the corresponding Bible story, if applicable.
- ▲ Read the skit, noting any vocabulary or pronunciation help you will need to give your group.
- ▲ Adapt the script if needed by reducing or increasing the number of characters, adding a scene, etc.
- ▲ Take note of the discussion questions. Decide which questions will be most appropriate for your group.
- ▲ Collect props.

PRACTICAL TIPS

One of the nicest things about skits is that they are easy to prepare. Skits are not big Broadway-type productions. They can be informal and spontaneous. They can be primped and polished to the hilt when the mood strikes. A lot or a little—it all depends on how you want to do it. Here are the basics to go on:

- ▲ Good acting is a plus, but it's not essential in order to have a positive experience. What is essential is that the lines are heard by the audience. The performers need to speak slowly and clearly—with their mouths directed at the audience.
- ▲ It is not necessary for performers to memorize the script. Reading works just as well. Provide several highlighter pens for performers to mark their parts. You may give out the script ahead of time for the performer to practice. However, if you hand out the scripts ahead of time, bring extra copies on performance day, because someone will undoubtedly forget his or her copy.
- ▲ Practicing the skits ahead of time will be most important for younger groups and groups for whom English is a second language.



USING SKITS WITH POOR READERS

If your group includes students with poor reading skills or learning disabilities, or those for whom English is a second language, don't lose heart! With a little planning and some TLC, you can help poor readers gain badly needed confidence and self-esteem and liven up your classroom with Bible skits.

The following list of ideas can be adapted for use in any setting. Choose the techniques that best suit your group and resources.

FOR INFORMAL PRESENTATIONS AND READ-THROUGHS:

- ▲ Highlight each character's lines on a separate copy of the script and add pronunciation pointers as needed.
- ▲ Have the entire group read through the skit in pairs or small groups before presenting the skit to the whole group.
- ▲ Give everyone in the group a script to follow as selected readers read aloud. Receiving information through more than one sense makes the drama more accessible. This technique also assists students who are better visual than aural learners. It can also ease performers' nerves a bit by providing something other than the readers on which to focus.
- ▲ Use lots of visual aids and props.
- ▲ If a skit is particularly long or has long speeches, the teacher or leader can summarize a portion of the skit. Never feel obligated to perform a skit in its entirety; use only as much as your group can handle.

Use a "jump-in" technique that gives readers control over how much they want to read: When a volunteer has read as much as he or she wants, another volunteer jumps in and continues reading. Or let each reader choose a helper to consult whenever necessary.

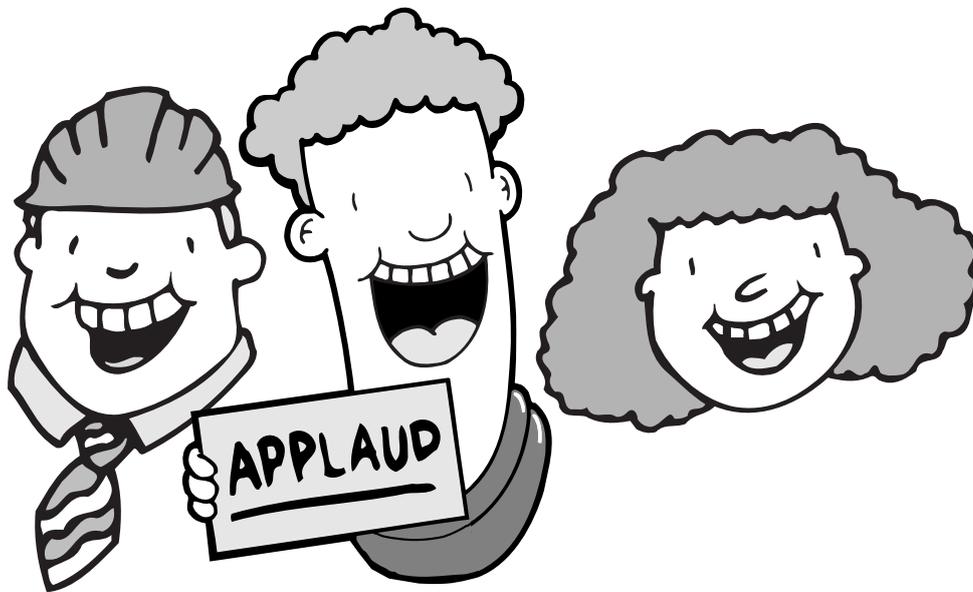
On an overhead projector or chalkboard, post a word bank or key with pronunciations and/or definitions to words the group might have trouble with. Before the group reading, review the words and locate them in the script with the group.

FOR MORE FORMAL PRESENTATIONS AND PERFORMANCES:

- ▲ Assign a "drama coach" to each reader to provide one-on-one help in interpreting and learning lines. Coaches may be other students or an adult.
- ▲ The leader may read aloud all character parts before they're assigned. The leader should also discuss the tone of the skit, pronunciation and meaning of difficult words, and make suggestions for changes and word substitutions.
- ▲ Students practice reading their parts into a cassette recorder. To provide extra help, the leader may record each character part on a separate cassette to distribute to readers. Record

each part twice, the first time speaking slowly and distinctly with no dramatic flair, the second time with dramatic flair so students hear how the lines should be delivered.

- ▲ For struggling readers, write out each sentence on a separate index card; this technique makes the job look smaller, and each line is an accomplishment.
- ▲ Hand out the script well in advance of the performance date; call and have the student read his or her part to you over the phone to practice.
- ▲ Give permission to improvise. Students who understand the sense of a speech, and whose verbal skills exceed their reading skills, may communicate better if allowed to paraphrase.



THE SAVIOR

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 3; Isaiah 9:6,7; 53:3-6; Jeremiah 23:5,6; Micah 5:2-4;
Romans 5:12,17-19

SUGGESTED TOPICS: The Savior; prophecies about Christ;
witnessing; God's plan of salvation

BIBLE BACKGROUND

The history of humanity tells of people living their lives according to their own wisdom and desires, rather than obeying and loving God. As a result, they drove a wedge between themselves and God. Throughout those years, God repeatedly chose men and women to call people back to Himself. Also, He repeatedly promised to send a Savior to reconcile people to Himself.

Who is this Savior? Many expected a political or military leader. Others were sure God would send someone who was part of the established religious order. However, careful study of the prophetic messages clearly shows both the character and the mission of the Savior: He is God in human flesh, God who loves us so much that He willingly took our sin on Himself.

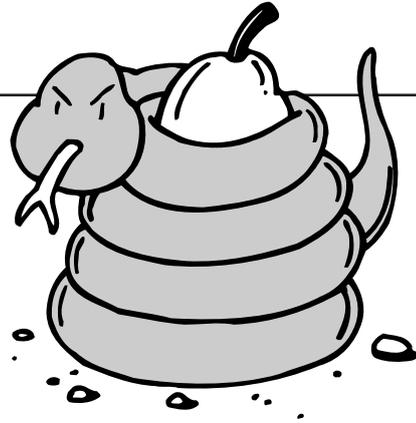
PERFORMANCE TIPS

1. Suggested props: two telephones for Tony and Kelly to use in their conversation. (Adjust opening lines accordingly.)
2. Introduce the skit by asking, "How would you summarize God's plan for the world?" After group responds say, "Compare your answers to those in this skit."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is sin? What has happened in the world because of sin?
2. What sins do you think are most common?
3. People often rate sins: this one isn't too bad, this one is much worse. Do you think God rates different sins? Why or why not?
4. Because of sin, what did God do?
5. Are you a member of God's family? What would you like to know about Jesus, the Savior?

THE SAVIOR



CHARACTERS

KELLY

TONY

KELLY: Hi, Tony. Where are you going?

TONY: Sunday School. Wanna come?

KELLY: No way! I go to school all week. Why would I want to go on Sunday, too?

TONY: Sunday School isn't like regular school, Kelly. We have lots of fun.

KELLY: I doubt it. My mom made me go for years. I hated it.

TONY: Bummer! We do all kinds of interesting stuff and learn fascinating things from the Bible.

KELLY: Oh yeah? Like what?

TONY: Right now we're studying about Jesus.

KELLY: Well then, I sure don't need to go—I know all that stuff. The manger, the shepherds, the wise men, the Cross. I don't need to hear it again.

TONY: OK, smart aleck. If you know it all, then you know when Jesus was first mentioned in the Bible, right?

KELLY: Sure. Let's see...Matthew. That's it. You thought I didn't know, didn't you?

TONY: Yeah, I thought you didn't know. Now I KNOW that you don't know.

KELLY: Oh, yeah? Well if you're so smart, when WAS Jesus first mentioned?

TONY: In Genesis.

KELLY: Yeah, right. This must be some kind of brilliant Sunday School class you go to. Jesus doesn't come around until the New Testament.

TONY: Have you ever heard of Adam and Eve?

KELLY: What is this, kindergarten? Everyone's heard of Adam and Eve.

TONY: Then you remember that God made a perfect world, and He created Adam and Eve to live in it.

KELLY: Yeah. And Eve ate the apple because the snake told her to...

TONY: This would probably go faster if you wouldn't interrupt. Who said Eve ate an apple?

KELLY: Everybody knows Eve ate an apple and then God zapped her for it.

TONY: Well, maybe everybody is wrong. The Bible doesn't say anything about an apple.

KELLY: OK, so maybe it wasn't an apple. Maybe it was a peach. Who cares? The point is, what does that have to do with Jesus?

TONY: It has everything to do with Jesus. Remember that Adam and Eve only had one rule to obey in their perfect world...

KELLY: That doesn't sound perfect to me. Perfect would be NO rules.

TONY: Have you ever tried to play a game where there were no rules?

KELLY: No. Let me think about it. *(Pause.)* If there are no rules, then everyone does what ever he wants to do. That might be pretty confusing.

TONY: All right! You're beginning to get it. So God gave them lots of privileges and one rule: Don't eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge that was in the middle of the garden.

KELLY: This is the part about the snake. You don't really believe that Eve was out talking to a snake, do you? That's just a fairy tale.

TONY: Yes, I do believe it. The Bible says that the snake was Satan in disguise. And Satan told Eve that God made the rule because He was afraid if people ate from that tree, God would have some competition. But that was a lie that Satan told her just to make her sin. Once she and Adam ate the fruit, the world wasn't perfect any more.

KELLY: You told me all this had something to do with Jesus. I haven't heard His name yet.

TONY: I'm almost there. God made plans for correcting the damage that Adam and Eve did. He promised that the seed of woman would bruise the head of the serpent and the serpent would bruise the heel of the woman's seed.

KELLY: So? What's that supposed to mean?

TONY: That's Genesis 3:15. That's God's promise that a Savior would come into the world and Satan would hurt Him a little, but the Savior would destroy Satan. That Savior is Jesus. The name Jesus isn't used, but that's who the passage is talking about.

KELLY: OK. So Jesus is mentioned in Genesis. So what?

TONY: It's not the only time Jesus is mentioned. The Old Testament is filled with references about Him. And it's important, because it shows how much God loves us.

KELLY: Because He's going to send a Savior? Why didn't He just stop Adam and Eve from sinning in the first place?

TONY: If He had stopped Adam and Eve, then we'd be robots, not people. God wants us to do right because we want to, not because He forced us to. So, God not only promised to send us a Savior, but He told us what the Savior would be like, and how we could recognize Him. God sent lots of prophets to tell different things about the promised Savior.

KELLY: You mean like those people on TV who tell what's going to happen next year.

TONY: No, not at all. If God's prophets said that something would happen, it had to happen exactly the way they said. That's how we know we can trust the things they have to say about the future. Do you want to know what the prophets had to say about the Savior?

KELLY: OK, I'm curious. What did they have to say about the Savior?

TONY: Well, God told the prophets whose earthly family the Savior would belong to. Jeremiah prophesied that the Savior would come from the family of King David.

KELLY: That's the guy who killed Goliath, right?

TONY: That's right. Another prophet, Isaiah, told us what some of His titles would be. Isaiah said the Savior would be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father and the Prince of Peace.

KELLY: I've heard some of those before. What else did the prophets say?

TONY: Another prophet, Micah, told where the Savior would be born. Micah said that even though Bethlehem was one of the smallest places in Judah, God's chosen Savior would be born there.

KELLY: Anything else?

TONY: Yes. In Isaiah, chapter fifty-three, God tells why the Savior is coming.

KELLY: A savior comes to save. You need a whole chapter to say that?

TONY: But remember, God wanted us to know for certain who the Savior would be. God said, through Isaiah, that people are like sheep who go straying off, and God would put all of our wrong on the Savior. The Savior would take the punishment we deserve for the wrong things we've done.

KELLY: But that's not fair! Why would somebody want to be punished for something that somebody else did? I got in trouble at school because someone else was goofing off and the teacher thought it was me. That really made me mad. Why would God make somebody else suffer because I did something wrong? Why doesn't He punish the ones who do wrong and leave the others alone?

TONY: God didn't MAKE anyone suffer for other people's sins. Jesus willingly took the punishment that everyone else deserved. Romans chapter five, says that one man's disobedience made many sinners. Do you know who that's talking about?

KELLY: Adam, I guess. That's when everything stopped being perfect.

TONY: That's right. It also says that by the obedience of one, many shall be made righteous.

KELLY: I guess that's talking about Jesus. But why didn't everyone pay for their own sins? Then Jesus wouldn't have had to die on the cross.

TONY: Because the payment for sin is separation from God, and God wants us to be united with Him, not separated. Because Jesus was perfect, He could pay the price for our sins and only be separated from God the Father for a short time. If we had to pay for our own sins, we would be separated from God forever.

KELLY: But what about people who don't sin? Aren't they being treated unfairly?

TONY: But that's just it! Everybody sins! Sinning doesn't just mean doing horrible things like committing murder. Sinning just means not being perfect. Do you know anybody who is perfect?

KELLY: Well...no.

TONY: OK. So Jesus came to pay the price for the sins of everybody who ever lived and everybody who ever will live. That way, we ALL can have our sins forgiven and be able to live with God forever.

KELLY: I guess maybe I don't know as much as I thought I did. I mean, if Jesus did so much for me, maybe I should learn more about it. Is that invitation still open?

TONY: It sure is.

DEVILS' RETREAT

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 2; 3; 6—8; 37; 45; Exodus 11; 12:31—14; Numbers 14:36-38; Esther; Jeremiah 26; Daniel 3; Matthew 1:18—2:8; Luke 4:1-11

SUGGESTED TOPICS: Salvation; Christian unity; testing the spirits

BIBLE BACKGROUND

Since the beginning of time, Satan has been trying to foil God's plan of a perfect creation. In the Garden of Eden, he deceived Eve into doubting God's word (see Genesis 3:4). All through the ages, Satan and his minions worked behind the scenes. Satan attempted to entice Jesus into compromising His mission and His authority (see Matthew 4:1-11).

Finally, Satan was successful—or so he thought. The Savior was ignominiously hung from a cross, dead at the age of thirty-three. What had God's Chosen One been able to accomplish? At first glance, it would appear that Jesus had been a colossal failure. All but a small handful of His followers had scattered in fear after His arrest and trial. Surely it would not take long for Him to be completely forgotten.

Satan's "victory" was short lived. Throughout His life on earth, Jesus showed us truth about God, relationships with others and love in action. Through His death, He paid the price for our sin. Redemption had become reality. God's promise had been fulfilled. The resurrection of Jesus dramatically shattered Satan's plans.

PERFORMANCE TIPS

1. Suggested props: table and chairs, briefcase for Satan, papers to represent reports, pads and pencils for the demons to take notes, mirror.
2. Satan and his minions are formidable adversaries. Do not portray them as buffoons.
3. Part of the demons' problems result from their inability to support each other. All should nod in agreement when someone else is blamed for failure.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How can you be sure Jesus is the promised Savior? What evidence do we have?
2. Satan is out to destroy what Jesus has done. How can we help God's plan of salvation?
3. What things do we do that might contribute more to Satan's plan than to God's plan?
4. Read James 4:7. How can you resist the devil?

DEVILS' RETREAT

CHARACTERS

SATAN

MALEFICENT (mal-EF-ih-sent)

NONSEQUITUR (non-SEK-wih-tur)

TAROT (TARE-oh)

DISGRUNTLE



SATAN: (*Stands.*) Bad evening, cruel ones. I trust your stay here at our retreat has been miserable.

MALEFICENT: It's been ROTTEN. All I could want.

NONSEQUITUR: Couldn't be worse.

TAROT: Disgusting. Bed's far too uncomfortable to sleep.

SATAN: It pleases me to hear it.

DISGRUNTLE: I've got a complaint.

SATAN: Speak.

DISGRUNTLE: The food's been too good—YECCH. I haven't had indigestion yet.

SATAN: Make a note. Fire the cook. And when I say fire, I mean FIRE. (*Mimics flames with his hands. Demons laugh.*) Anything else before we begin?

OTHERS: No.

SATAN: Then, let's begin. As you know, we're here to review our overall performance. Take time to get the big picture and glory in our past victories. And, of course, my favorite—we're here to assign blame for failures. So. From the beginning. Anyone?

TAROT: I think I speak for us all when I say the serpent in the Garden of Eden was a masterful touch on your part, Chief.

OTHERS (*applauding*): Hear, hear!

SATAN: Of course it was, you apple-polisher! (*To audience.*) No pun intended. (*To his GROUP.*) EVERYTHING I do is masterful. However, it wasn't completely successful. Adam and Eve COULD have eaten from the Tree of Life, too. Imagine—people living in sin forever! (*Smiles.*) Ooooooh. The thought gives me goose bumps. But MY brilliant work was UNDERMINED. WHO failed to get them to eat it?

MALEFICENT: Nonsequitur, Chief. He fouled up the works.

NONSEQUITUR: (*Rises angrily.*) How can you suggest such a thing?

MALEFICENT: (*Rises.*) You tried to make them believe God couldn't see them if they hid. But you didn't confuse them into thinking that what they had done was alright. You spent so much time on having them hide, you gave them time to feel guilty. You should have KEPT them from feeling guilty.

SATAN: No, no. Guilt comes with the territory, sooner or later—one of HIS rules. (*Smiles.*) But I have twisted it to my advantage, millions of times! Nonsequitur, YOU are to

blame for not USING their guilt wisely. We could have used it to control those humans—if it hadn't been for HIM.

NONSEQUITUR: Yeah! It's HIS fault! He should have KILLED them. (*Whines.*) Why is He LIKE that? All He did was make them leave the garden and work for a living! And to top it off, He made those—UGH!—PROMISES.

DISGRUNTLE: Yeah. How did it go, Chief? You'd bruise some guy's heel but He'd bash your brains in when you did...

SATAN (*outraged*): SHUT UP! IDIOT! Don't you know ANYTHING? We've been trying to eliminate the chance of that Promised One ever coming, EVERY DAY since He said that! No wonder you're incompetent! You don't even understand our game plan!

DISGRUNTLE: (*Looks down in shame and mumbles.*) It was all Nonsequitur's fault!

SATAN: He was as slow as YOU are. (*Writes.*) One mark against Nonsequitur.

MALEFICENT: But look at MY success rate after that! I had everybody hating his neighbor.

DISGRUNTLE (*snarling and sarcastically*): Yeah? What about the—UGH!—obedient boat builder? How did you happen to miss him?

MALEFICENT: Look. (*Nervous.*) One obedient guy in a whole world—I can't be everywhere!

DISGRUNTLE: Come on! He's building a boat the size of a FOOTBALL FIELD! And you don't notice. What were you doing? SLEEPING?

MALEFICENT: You can't pin this on me! (*Points upward.*) HE sent the flood! (*Snaps fingers.*) Just like that—hundreds of years of work for NOTHING! Nothing left but a bunch of animals and eight humans who—ulp!—loved HIM.

SATAN: Disgruntle's right this time, even if he is an idiot. (*Writes.*) Maleficent, this falls on your shoulders. (*Looks up and sighs.*) Do I have to do everything myself?

TAROT: (*Stands.*) But Chief, with my brilliant work, we got the humans back to idol worship in no time flat. Every last one of them...

DISGRUNTLE (*sarcastically*): Like Abraham? Look at all the PROMISES he got. Why didn't you stop him before he obeyed?

TAROT: Who would figure he'd listen to HIM? Abraham had lots of gods to choose from. But he just packed up his tents and left. Go figure.

MALEFICENT: If I hadn't stirred up strife in his family, we would have failed completely.

DISGRUNTLE: Big deal. (*Points upward.*) It just made HIM give the guy more PROMISES!

MALEFICENT (*irritated*): Hey! I worked VERY hard in that family for generations. And what do I get? Joseph! I never expected the *F* word from him. Not after all the things I'd gotten his brothers to put him through!

DISGRUNTLE (*sarcastically*): Ooooh! The dreaded *F* word.

MALEFICENT (*panicked*): No! Don't SAY it!

DISGRUNTLE: Forgiveness! FORGIVENESS! (*Points.*) You blew it, Maleficent!

SATAN: I have to agree with Disgruntle. (*Writes.*) Another mark against Maleficent.

You had to let his brothers think it would be better to sell him into slavery than to kill him. If you had followed the original plan...

DISGRUNTLE: Then I wouldn't have had to be so busy in Egypt.

MALEFICENT: YOU? I was the one who kept the Egyptians angry. I was the one who had all the male babies killed.

DISGRUNTLE: And if you hadn't missed Moses, I wouldn't have had to keep the Israelites arguing among themselves.

TAROT: Don't take all the credit. I had them worshiping Molech all the way to the Promised Land!

SATAN: Not ALL of them. Caleb and Joshua still obeyed HIM. Even the giants didn't scare them off. (*Bangs table.*) How can He always find SOMEBODY who'll do RIGHT?!

NONSEQUITUR: But Chief, remember? I got them ALL for a while with my "do your own thing" deception! I even got rid of Samuel and everyone like him. (*Whines.*) How was I to know that making them want a KING would work into HIS plan?

SATAN: You DID manage quite a few despicable kings. BUT—and this is a BIG one—you never managed to do away with the House of David! That was CRUCIAL to our plans!

NONSEQUITUR: Uh, look, Chief, I got more royal family members killed off than either one of us can count! I threw myself into that one!

SATAN: (*To NONSEQUITUR.*) Even ONE obedient ruler is too many! They never forgot HIS ways completely! (*To himself.*) And those prophets! Some of them were absolutely INTOLERABLE! (*Begins to pace.*) Torture them, put them in holes, deceive people into ignoring them—and still HE manages to get somebody to listen. EVERY TIME!

TAROT: Even when we got the whole bunch shipped off to Babylon, He seemed to be, well...one step ahead of us. Again.

DISGRUNTLE: My crew worked day and night on that Jeremiah situation. We got people worked up against him, got him thrown into jail. Best of all, we brought in a big group of false prophets to tell the people they'd be free and back in the land in no time. We did our job.

NONSEQUITUR: Maybe your false prophets did their job TOO well. Too many of those Israelites stayed separate from the people who deported them. You should have convinced ALL of them to join in, be one of the boys! Look at Daniel. Look at Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Couldn't you have let them be content with their position? No. You had to keep pushing!

DISGRUNTLE: That wasn't my doing.

SATAN: Don't try to worm out of it. You FAILED. (*Writes.*) But we could have gotten rid of the whole nation in one bloody day while they were in Babylon! Who blew THAT one, when we had Haman right in our pocket?

MALEFICENT: Yeah, who messed up? That's what I want to know! Just show me his face.

TAROT: (*Hands MALEFICENT a mirror.*) Here you go.

MALEFICENT: What's this for?

TAROT: I'm showing you the bungler's face!

MALEFICENT: Rot. I NEVER bungle.

TAROT: You did on this one. You got Haman so worked up against Mordecai, he lost all common sense. He couldn't think straight and look what happened. He lost his head! (*To audience.*) No pun intended.

MALEFICENT: That's not MY doing! Nonsequitur should have brought his "it's not my problem" deception down on Queen Esther right away. But, NO! He was late again! She had the—YUK!—truth in front of the king before Haman could say, "Kill the Jews!"

NONSEQUITUR: I was busy. She wasn't the only person around to deceive!

SATAN: Maleficent, that's THREE for you. And to think...you're lusting after MY job! You'll have to do better than this!

MALEFICENT (*shocked that he's been caught*): How...how did you know?

SATAN: I have informants. (*Leans over MALEFICENT.*) Never forget, you scheming slime, they don't call ME the "father of lies" for nothing! (*To group.*) Ahem. The last item on our agenda is the most crucial. Our Eternal Enemy is at it again.

MALEFICENT: Not again.

NONSEQUITUR: Doesn't He ever quit?

TAROT: Doesn't He ever get tired?

DISGRUNTLE: Uh-oh. You're not going to say that dreaded *R* word!

SATAN: (*Into DISGRUNTLE's ear.*) Redemption! REDEMPTION! There! It's a beautiful word but SOMEBODY had to say it.

ALL: Yecch!

SATAN: This time, the situation is critical. Our spy chain has just reported. The Promised One is about to come into the world.

MALEFICENT: How?

SATAN: Virgin birth.

TAROT: Crafty. Very crafty.

NONSEQUITUR: How does our Eternal Enemy come up with these ideas?

DISGRUNTLE: Just think of what we could accomplish if ONE of us was omniscient.

SATAN: Stop whining! We need a plan!

NONSEQUITUR: You say virgin birth. Single parent?

SATAN: (*Consults notes.*) Kid named Mary. Good family, engaged to Joseph.

NONSEQUITUR: Simple. I'll get to Joseph. Convince him to divorce her.

SATAN: Good luck. The man's in love!

NONSEQUITUR: Leave it to me. Deception and misleading thoughts are my specialty.

SATAN: OK, you've got Joseph. DON'T BLOW IT! But we need backup plans. Anyone?

TAROT: How does the Eternal Enemy plan to announce the birth? He must have some big sign or wonder.

SATAN: (*Consults notes.*) The reports say a new star. A bright one.

TAROT: Excellent. I have some astrologers working in the East.

SATAN: I thought they were His.

TAROT: So do they. Isn't it WONDERFUL? I tell them what to do and they give all the credit to HIM. It's one of my better plans.

SATAN: Let's hope it makes up for your Abraham blunder. So, what will you do?

TAROT: I'll have them misread the star. Send them to the wrong place. They'll announce a different savior. At the very least, it'll confuse the issue.

MALEFICENT: This goes against everything I believe in but, Tarot, how about you and I...cooperate?

OTHERS: Yecch! The C word.

MALEFICENT: Desperate times call for desperate measures. Listen, I've got a plan. The king of Judea is in my pocket. The Savior is going to come from around there, right?

SATAN: (*Consults notes.*) Bethlehem. Just outside of Jerusalem.

MALEFICENT: Perfect! This King Herod is ripe for the picking. Tarot, what if you lead your astrologers to Jerusalem?

TAROT: Easy enough. Why?

MALEFICENT: Those stargazers will be searching for a king, right?

TAROT: Naturally.

SATAN: I think I see where you're headed. I like it.

MALEFICENT: So they'll go to the palace and ask to see the new king.

TAROT: Of course.

MALEFICENT: If I know my Herod, he'll go wild!

SATAN: Magnificent, Maleficent!

TAROT: I don't get it.

MALEFICENT: Listen, we'll lead your astrologers to the RIGHT baby. They'll report back to my king.

TAROT: (*Rubs hands together.*) Ah, I see.

MALEFICENT: He sends his soldiers out. Kills the kid. Poof! No Savior.

SATAN: Brilliant! Can't miss! Disgruntle. We haven't heard from you.

DISGRUNTLE: These plans sound bad. But some of our most HORRIBLE plans have failed before.

SATAN: You're being a pessimist. I like that.

DISGRUNTLE: So I've got a contingency plan. Suppose Herod misses the Savior? Remember Moses! The worst case scenario is this: HE always seems to be one step ahead of us. HE always has ONE obedient person...

OTHERS: Bite your tongue! You're going to start sounding like one of THEM!

DISGRUNTLE: Look, I'm only saying, "What if."

SATAN (*outraged*): WHAT IF? You're talking "WHAT IF" to ME? That's enough! There's only one thing to do. If Herod doesn't get Him, I'M going in myself. I'll take my time. I'll watch and wait. And I'll get to Him when He's at His WEAKEST. I'll offer Him everything He wants—for a PRICE. I'll make a deal with Him that's so sweet He'll be in the palm of my hand before He knows what hit Him! I WILL BE WORSHIPED! I WILL BE KING!

(*Murmurs of "Uh-oh!" and "Oh, wow!" from GROUP.*)

SATAN: (*Regains composure.*) Now. Let's get going. Everyone know his job?

OTHERS: Got it.

(*ALL rise and begin to leave.*)

SATAN (*calling after them*): And this time, DO IT RIGHT!

SHOW ME

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 6; Exodus 2:1-10; Hebrews 11

SUGGESTED TOPICS: Showing faith; trusting God

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A well-known story tells of a famous acrobat who announced he would cross Niagara Falls on a tightrope, pushing a wheelbarrow. Naturally, a crowd assembled to watch his feat. "Who believes I can do this?" he asked the crowd. "We do!" was the enthusiastic response. "Who will ride in the wheelbarrow while I push it across?" he asked the assembly. He was greeted with dead silence.

Whether or not the above story is true, it clearly delineates the difference between belief and faith. One can passively believe; but if one has faith, it must be demonstrated. Hebrews 11 tells of the heroes of the faith and what they did to demonstrate their faith. Noah, in faith, built an ark. Abraham left his home in faith, and journeyed to a land he had never seen. Later, in faith, he prepared to offer up his only son as a sacrifice. Moses' parents, in faith, hid him for three months. Moses, in faith, forsook Egypt and his place there as Pharaoh's adopted grandson. Rahab, in faith, hid the Israelite spies. In each case, faith moved the person to action. Without demonstration, faith does not exist.

PERFORMANCE TIPS

1. Suggested props: Bible-times costumes, wood for Noah to move, sticks or reeds for Moses' mother to weave.
2. Noah should be working confidently; Noah's wife, exasperated with him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is faith? Can you have faith without demonstrating it? Why or why not?
2. Read Hebrews 11. What are some ways different Old Testament people showed faith?
3. How do we know it is safe to place our faith in God?
4. What are some ways we can demonstrate our faith in God?

SHOW ME

CHARACTERS

NOAH

NOAH'S WIFE

MOSES' MOTHER

MOSES' FATHER

SCENE ONE

*(NOAH walks onstage carrying wood.
NOAH'S WIFE enters behind him, talking.)*



NOAH'S WIFE: What are you doing?

NOAH: Gathering wood for lumber.

NOAH'S WIFE: I can see that. Why are you gathering lumber?

NOAH: To build.

NOAH'S WIFE: To build what?

NOAH: An ark.

NOAH'S WIFE: What's an ark?

NOAH: It's a boat.

NOAH'S WIFE: You've got enough lumber there to build twenty boats. Why do you want to build a boat, anyway? We live miles from the beach. Where are you planning to sail it?

NOAH: I don't have enough lumber. I need enough to build a boat four hundred and fifty feet long, seventy feet wide and forty-five feet high.

NOAH'S WIFE: Ridiculous! A boat THAT big could hold two of every kind of animal on earth!

NOAH: And seven of each of the clean.

NOAH'S WIFE: Clean, unclean—who cares? All I know is, you're making a mess in the front yard. What will the neighbors think?

NOAH: They will think what they wish. Probably evil.

NOAH'S WIFE: I'll tell you what they'll think. They'll think, "Noah's really lost it this time. He's gone over the deep end. One hundred percent bananas."

NOAH: Bananas! Good thinking! They will need food.

NOAH'S WIFE: WHO will need food?

NOAH: The animals.

NOAH'S WIFE: Which animals?

NOAH: The ones in the ark.