

Gospel Light's

AGES 8-12

# BIG BOOK OF CAPTIVATING SKITS

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1 | REAL LIFE   |
| 2 | BIBLE SKITS |
| 3 | FOR THE     |
| 4 | MODERN KID  |

- 100 modern Bible-based teaching skits
- Indexed by Bible verse, Bible character and topic
- Great to use any time you have kids together
- Communicates Bible truths in a fun way

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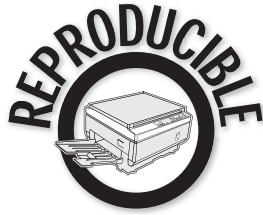


**Gospel Light**

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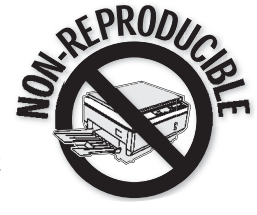
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# Using This Book

## Bringing 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 for those who will be involved in putting on the skits.

## 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 8 through 12**:

- Sunday School, second hour or midweek programs;
- Camps;
- 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. 212);
- **Scripture references** (p. 209);
- **Topics** (p. 217).

## 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:

- Familiarize yourself with the corresponding Bible story, if applicable, by reading the Scripture passage.
- 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.

## 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 or 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 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 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 should summarize a portion of the skit. Never feel obligated to perform a skit in its entirety; only use 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 with whenever necessary. On an overhead projector or chalkboard, post a word bank or key with pronunciations and/or definitions to words the students 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.
- 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 job 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 speech, and whose verbal skills exceed their reading skills, may communicate better if allowed to paraphrase.



# Old Testament







For the  
real deal  
read Genesis  
2: 3:1-19

## Mrs. Bixby

**Characters:** MRS. BIXBY;  
RACHEL; ANDREW

**Props:** Characters may wish to pantomime the use of props.

**Scene:** Church classroom. RACHEL and ANDREW are helping MRS. BIXBY put candy in the gift boxes of clothing and food being donated as Christmas presents for refugees.

**MRS. BIXBY:** *(Putting large shopping bags of candy on a table.)* Thank you both for offering to help me. This is certainly going to be a big job!

**RACHEL:** We don't mind. Besides, we get to spend time with you, our favorite teacher.

**MRS. BIXBY:** Favorite teacher, huh? Well, don't let this get out, but you are two of my favorite students.

**RACHEL:** *(Laughing.)* You say that to ALL of your students.

**MRS. BIXBY:** *(Laughs.)* I suppose I do. But I do enjoy spending time with you two. We've become very good friends.

**ANDREW:** Yeah. Hey, by the way, thanks for coming to my school play.

**MRS. BIXBY:** It was my pleasure. I was so proud of you. Well, enough chitchat. We need to get to work. It was so wonderful of Mr. Smith to donate all this candy to put in our boxes. I'm sure the children at the refugee center will really enjoy something special like this. *(She hands bags of candy to RACHEL and ANDREW.)* Now, I think we will have just enough for two in each box.

**RACHEL:** *(Opening her bag of candy.)* Ooo. Look at this! Chewy Chocolate Bars! I LOVE those!

**ANDREW:** You can't LOVE candy, Rachel. Don't you remember we learned about that?

**RACHEL:** *(Laughs.)* Oh yeah. OK. I really LIKE Chewy Chocolate Bars!

**ANDREW:** *(Opening his bag of candy.)* Well, I really like these Double Chocolate Fudge Drops. Do you have a favorite, Mrs. Bixby?

**MRS. BIXBY:** I think the Chunky Chocolate Peanut Butter Cups are my favorite.

*(MRS. BIXBY, RACHEL and ANDREW work for a while, putting candy into boxes.)*

**MRS. BIXBY:** Stuffing all this candy into the boxes is making me hungry. I've got some snacks for us in the kitchen. I'll go get them. *(She exits.)*

**ANDREW:** She's hungry! I would just love to eat a bag of these Fudge Drops!

**RACHEL:** I can hardly stand giving away all these Chewy Chocolate Bars. What would it hurt if I ate just one? I mean, who's going to notice? There's lots of candy here. No one would ever miss just one.

**ANDREW:** I don't know, Rachel. It doesn't seem right.

**RACHEL:** But what's really wrong with it? I'm just going to eat one. (*RACHEL takes a candy bar and eats it.*) Oh, this tastes so good!

**ANDREW:** Well, I suppose just one candy wouldn't hurt. (*ANDREW opens a bag of Fudge Drops and begins eating them.*) Oh yeah, these are my favorites!

**RACHEL:** (*Finished eating her candy.*) Oh, that was wonderful! Maybe just one more.

(*RACHEL and ANDREW eat several candy bars and bags of Fudge Drops.*)

**ANDREW:** Uh-oh.

**RACHEL:** What?

**ANDREW:** I think I ate too many. I'm feeling a little sick.

**RACHEL:** Yeah, me, too. In fact, I don't think I'll ever eat another candy bar.

**ANDREW:** Oh no! I hear Mrs. Bixby coming.

**RACHEL:** We'd better hide the evidence quick.

(*RACHEL and ANDREW start stuffing candy wrappers into each other's coat pockets, shoes, etc.*)

**ANDREW:** And don't say anything. Teachers can smell chocolate on your breath.

**MRS. BIXBY:** (*Entering with a plate of cookies, candy bars and small chocolate candies.*) And how are my hard workers doing?

**RACHEL:** (*Looking down at box.*) Fine.

**MRS. BIXBY:** I brought us some snacks. I even brought some of your favorite candies. Help yourself!

**ANDREW:** (*Looking down, trying to look busy.*) Um, no thanks.

**MRS. BIXBY:** Goodness. What's wrong with the two of you?

**RACHEL:** (*Covering mouth with hand.*) Nothing.

**ANDREW:** (*Turning away.*) Just working.

**MRS. BIXBY:** Do I smell chocolate? Have you been eating some of the candy?

**ANDREW:** No! (*A candy wrapper drops out of ANDREW's pocket.*)

**RACHEL:** (*To ANDREW.*) Oh, great! Now you've really blown it!

**MRS. BIXBY:** (*Tell what you think Mrs. Bixby said.*)

For the  
real story  
read Genesis  
12:1-5; 15:1-7;  
21:1-7

## Promised!

**Characters:** **ELIEZER**, a very old servant of Abe's; **ISAAC**, Abe's son, a teenager; **ABE**, God's friend, a very old man; **SARAH**, Isaac's mother, a very old woman

**Scene:** *ISAAC and ELIEZER are out under the stars on yet another quiet, stary night in Canaan. ABE and SARAH are in bed, listening through the wall of their tent.*

**ELIEZER:** Look at those stars, boy!

**ISAAC:** There sure are a lot of them. Look, there's that little group of seven.

**ELIEZER:** The Seven Sisters.

**ISAAC:** Why didn't I ever have any?

**ELIEZER:** What?

**ISAAC:** Sisters.

**ELIEZER:** Your parents didn't need any. Only needed you. You're the start.

**ISAAC:** Oh, right! Here I am, out here in nowhere. Nobody even knows I'm alive!

**ELIEZER:** Are you KIDDIN'? HE does!

**ISAAC:** He who?

**ELIEZER:** GOD's who! You're gonna have children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren... more of them than there are stars in the sky!

**ISAAC:** THAT'S how I'll be a star? I'm not gonna be famous?

**ELIEZER:** Sure! Everyone will know your story! Kids will be named after you!

**ISAAC:** Promise me?

**ELIEZER:** Sure!

**ABE:** *(Whispers.)* God promised ME!

**SARAH:** *(Whispers.)* Me, too. And it still makes me laugh!

**ELIEZER:** Y'know, my boy, I've been with your father a LONG time. I've seen him rescue your cousin, Lot. I've seen Sodom go up in smoke—what a cloud of dust that little city raised! I've seen him fight battles and talk to kings and shear big sheep that didn't want to be shorn—your pop's done it all! I've seen him out here under this very sky, on his face talking to God.

**ISAAC:** He stayed up past sundown just so he could talk to God? He's NEVER up that late nowadays!

**ABE:** *(Whispers.)* Who says I'm ASLEEP?

**SARAH:** *(Whispers.)* Hard to sleep when those two never stop talking!

**ELIEZER:** He wasn't all that young then either! But he did go to bed later then. I remember once when he was out here,

talking to God. It was before you were born. He laughed so hard, he woke me up!

**ABE:** (*Whispers.*) Did I ever laugh! You two don't know the half of it!

**SARAH:** (*Whispers.*) I laughed, too. And Isaac STILL keeps me awake, like he did when he was a baby!

**ISAAC:** So he laughed because he didn't believe that promise about stars God made?

**ELIEZER:** Y'know, I can't rightly tell. I would never interrupt your pop when he was praying. But he sure must have thought it was funny that God was going to keep that promise!

**ABE:** (*Whispers.*) It DID seem funny at the time! Unbelievable!

**SARAH:** (*Whispers.*) But God got the last laugh. He did what He promised! Now if our "promise" would just quiet down so we could sleep.

**ISAAC:** So, when I have a wife, we're going to have lots and lots of children? Wait a minute—where AM I gonna get a wife out here in the middle of nowhere? If that's how I'm gonna be a star, I can't exactly do it all by MYSELF, y'know.

**ELIEZER:** You're willing to share your star status with a wife, eh? Now, isn't that generous of you! Well, you know what your pop would say—

**ELIEZER & ISAAC:** "God will provide."

**ISAAC:** Promise?

**ABE:** (*Whispers.*) Of COURSE it's a promise! I heard it MYSELF!

**SARAH:** (*Whispers.*) We DO need to think about this wife business, Abe. Our little Isaac is growing up!

**ELIEZER:** Sure it's a promise! God certainly wouldn't have gone to all this trouble, bringing your pop out here and sending him on all these adventures, just to forget to find you a wife! That would put a real kink in that "stars of the heavens" promise.

**ISAAC:** And He ALWAYS keeps His promises?

**ELIEZER:** You betcha!

**SARAH:** (*Whispers.*) He promised me, too! I remember.

**ABE:** (*Yells.*) Of COURSE God always keeps His promises! Now go to bed, you two! We'll talk about this "wife and stars" business in the morning!

**ISAAC:** Uh, I guess he wasn't asleep!

**ELIEZER:** I can PROMISE you that!

For the  
real story  
read  
Genesis 13

## Lot's Choice

**Characters:** **LUD**, one of Lot's herdsmen; **LOT**, Abraham's nephew; **ABRAHAM**, a man who followed God's instructions to move to a new land

**Scene:** *On a mountain overlooking the Jordan Valley.*

**LUD:** (LUD enters and stomps over to LOT.) I have had it!

**LOT:** What's the problem this time?

**LUD:** It's your uncle's herdsmen. They are deliberately getting their herds mixed up with ours.

**LOT:** I don't think it's deliberate. There just isn't enough space for all of us.

**LUD:** You can say that again!

**LOT:** I don't think it's deliberate?

**LUD:** No, I meant the part about there not being enough space.

**LOT:** Ah.

**LUD:** Too bad we can't just lose those herdsmen of your uncle's.

**LOT:** What do you mean?

**LUD:** I could tell them I've found a GREAT place with lots of water and food for the animals.

**LOT:** If this place is so great, why don't we ALL go there?

**LUD:** There really isn't such a place. I just tell them that. Then I take them way, way out in the desert, so far they can't get back, and then I leave them.

**LOT:** And how are you going to get back if they can't?

**LUD:** OK, bad idea.

**ABRAHAM:** (*Enters.*) Good afternoon, Lot!

**LOT:** Good afternoon, Uncle Abraham.

**ABRAHAM:** I hear from my herdsmen that our herdsmen are having some troubles.

**LUD:** Don't believe a word! It wasn't our fault!

**ABRAHAM:** I didn't say it was your fault.

**LUD:** Oh yeah! Well, they started it!

**ABRAHAM:** Started what?

**LUD:** The fight! That's what you're here about, isn't it?

**LOT:** (*To LUD.*) Fight? You didn't say anything about a fight.

**LUD:** It was just a little skirmish between 50 of their guys and us.

**LOT:** (*Groans.*)

**ABRAHAM:** No. I'm not talking about the fight. I'm talking about the problem that caused the fight. There just doesn't seem to be enough water and food for both our herds.

**LUD:** You can say that again.

**ABRAHAM:** I'm not talking about the fight?

**LUD:** No, the part about there not being enough water and food.

**ABRAHAM:** Ah. Well, I think I've come up with a solution.

**LUD:** Hey! That isn't fair.

**LOT:** *(To LUD.)* Silence! How do you know it isn't fair? You haven't heard his idea yet!

**ABRAHAM:** There'd be plenty of land and water if we weren't trying to use it together.

**LOT:** What?

**LUD:** You've got a lot of nerve sending us out into the desert!

**LOT:** *(To LUD.)* Silence! Or you will be an UNEMPLOYED herdsman! *(To ABRAHAM.)* What are you suggesting, Uncle?

**ABRAHAM:** I'm suggesting we split up. You go one way, and I'll go the other.

**LOT:** Split up? But you're my family! We've been together since my father died.

**ABRAHAM:** Do you have a better solution?

**LOT:** No. But where do you want me to go?

**ABRAHAM:** Lot, there is plenty of land out there. You pick where you want to go, and I'll go in the other direction.

**LOT:** Well, OK. Hm. I'll pick...

**LUD:** *(Whispers to LOT.)* Pick the good side. Pick the good side.

**LOT:** *(To LUD.)* The good side?

**LUD:** *(To LOT.)* Yeah, the land around the Jordan River. It has lots of water and grass, and it's beautiful!

**LOT:** *(To ABRAHAM.)* You're serious about this? I pick whatever I want? You won't get mad?

**ABRAHAM:** I won't get mad. You pick where you want. God will provide us both with plenty.

**LOT:** Well, then I pick the land by the Jordan River.

**LUD:** *(Shouts.)* Yes!!

**ABRAHAM:** Very well. I'll move my herds in the other direction. Good-bye Lot, and good luck! *(ABRAHAM exits.)*

**LOT:** Good-bye, Uncle!

**LUD:** *(To LOT.)* See? What did I tell you? My plan worked!

**LOT:** *(Grinning.)* No. MY plan worked.

For the  
real story  
read Genesis  
25:19-34

## In a Stew!

**Characters:** **ENOCH** (E-nohk), servant of Isaac; **JACOB** (JAY-kuhb), son of Isaac; **ESAU** (E-sahw), twin brother of Jacob, but he was born first!

**Props:** Characters may wish to pantomime the use of props.

**Scene:** *Cooking area of ISAAC's camping site. JACOB is stirring stew in a pot.*

**ENOCH:** *(Enters, sniffing the air.)* What is that wonderful smell?

**JACOB:** Stew. And no, you can't have any.

**ENOCH:** I didn't ask for any. What kind of stew is it?

**JACOB:** Lentil.

**ENOCH:** *(Looking in pot.)* You have quite a bit there. It wouldn't hurt you to share a little.

**JACOB:** I have important plans for it.

**ENOCH:** Like what?

**JACOB:** That's none of your business.

**ENOCH:** I see. Well, I'll just go whisper a

word of this in your father's ear. *(Starts to exit.)*

**JACOB:** Hold it!

**ENOCH:** Yes?

**JACOB:** Fine. You can have a couple of bites. *(Dishes up stew from pot.)* When my father dies, you're going to find yourself unemployed, you blackmailer.

**ENOCH:** That will be up to your brother, Esau, won't it? After all, he's the one who will inherit everything. He's the one who has the birthright.

**JACOB:** Humph! That birthright rule is stupid. Why should Esau get most of everything just because he was born first? I'm his twin!

**ENOCH:** Traditions are traditions. You can't change traditions.

**JACOB:** We'll see about that.

**ENOCH:** Do I smell a plan brewing?

**JACOB:** Not that I'd tell you about.

**ENOCH:** I see. Well, I'll just be on my way to see your father.

**JACOB:** Why are you going to see him?

**ENOCH:** I know you, Jacob. You'll find a way to get that birthright from Esau. I'm just going to talk to your father to make sure I'll still have employment. Or a promotion to Most Trusted Servant would be nice.

**JACOB:** I'll think about it.

**ENOCH:** Better think fast. Here comes Esau now. I'd sure hate for your father to show up and mess up your plans.

**JACOB:** OK. Fine. You have a job. I promise.

**ENOCH:** Thank you, my master.

**ESAU:** *(Entering.)* Something smells mighty good in here, younger brother.

**JACOB:** Yes, I've made some lentil stew as a surprise for Mom.

**ESAU:** Good! I'm starving! Your lentil stew is the best in the world. Fill up my bowl to the brim.

**JACOB:** I don't think you heard me correctly. I said it's for Mom.

**ESAU:** Mom won't mind sharing.

**JACOB:** Yes, but I will.

**ESAU:** Look, Jacob, I'm tired! I've been out hunting.

**JACOB:** Catch anything?

**ESAU:** NO! And I haven't had anything to eat either! Now, what'll it take to get some food out of you?

**JACOB:** Hm, let me think about this.

**ENOCH:** *(To ESAU.)* Run fast, Esau, before you do something foolish and lose something valuable.

**ESAU:** Who are you to call me foolish? Right now there is nothing I wouldn't give for some of that stew. *(To JACOB.)* What kind of a brother are you, anyway, to make MY favorite stew and then give it to Mom?

**JACOB:** Lentil is YOUR favorite kind of stew? Oh dear, silly me, I always get so confused.

**ENOCH:** *(To self.)* I don't know which brother is worse!

**ESAU:** *(To JACOB.)* Look, Jacob, I'm starving. You've got food. I'm the eldest. So I'm ordering you to give me the food.

**JACOB:** You are no older than me!

**ESAU:** I'm the one with the birthright.

**JACOB:** Yes. You are. You have the birthright. I have the food.

**ENOCH:** I can see where this is going.

**JACOB and ESAU:** Will you be quiet!

**ESAU:** You want the birthright? Fine, you can have the birthright, and I'll take the food.

**JACOB:** Do you swear it?

**ESAU:** I give my oath. I swear. I renounce. YOU have the birthright. Now give ME some food.

**JACOB:** Gladly, dear brother, gladly. *(Hands ESAU a bowl.)*

**ENOCH:** Wait until Isaac hears about this one! *(Starts to exit.)*

**JACOB:** Wait!

**ENOCH:** Why?

**JACOB:** I couldn't have my Most Trusted Servant leaving my side, could I?

**ENOCH:** Most Trusted Servant? No, I suppose not.

**ESAU:** *(Eating.)* This is really good! Best you've ever made!

**JACOB:** *(To ENOCH.)* When do you think he'll realize what he's done?

**ENOCH:** Knowing him? Not until after he's eaten his fourth or fifth bowl of stew.



For the  
real story  
read Genesis  
27:1-45

## Family Discussions

**Characters:** **SHIBAH** (SHEE-bah), Enoch's wife and Rebekah's servant; **ENOCH**, servant of Isaac; **ISAAC**, head of the family and father of Esau and Jacob; **REBEKAH**, Isaac's wife; **ESAU**, Isaac's son and Jacob's twin brother

**Props:** Characters may wish to pantomime the use of props.

**Scene:** *Cooking area. ENOCH is sitting, eating food.*

**SHIBAH:** *(Enters, obviously in distress.)* Oh, dear. Oh, dear.

**ENOCH:** Yes, love of my life.

**SHIBAH:** *(Turns angrily to ENOCH.)* YOU! You said our future was set. You said Jacob had named you his Most Trusted Servant. You said...

**ENOCH:** Yeah, so?

**SHIBAH:** Have you no idea what has happened?

**ENOCH:** Rebekah made a really great meal. Isaac's favorite, if I'm not mistaken.

**SHIBAH:** It's Isaac's favorite, all right. That's why my mistress made it for Jacob to serve to Isaac.

**ENOCH:** Well, that's just plain silly. Why would she do that? I mean, I told you that Esau was going to make a meal for Isaac. Look, there's some of it over there.

**SHIBAH:** And why was Esau making the meal?

**ENOCH:** To receive his father's blessing. *(Stops and thinks.)* Jacob's done it again, hasn't he?

**SHIBAH:** Yes, Jacob has tricked Isaac into giving him the blessing instead of to Esau.

**ENOCH:** Now Jacob has the blessing and his inheritance! As his Most Trusted Servant, I should do very well.

**SHIBAH:** And where is your master?

**ENOCH:** How would I know where he is? I don't watch him day and night.

**SHIBAH:** Well, you should!

*(ISAAC and REBEKAH enter. REBEKAH is leading the blind ISAAC.)*

**ISAAC:** Oh, what have I done? Esau, my favorite son, has nothing. No birthright, no inheritance. That scoundrel Jacob has taken off with everything! I knew that boy would amount to no good!

**REBEKAH:** At least he hasn't married local girls like Esau did. Those two women really get on my nerves.

**ISAAC:** That's true. Esau did not marry well. But at least he's no liar like his brother, Jacob.

**REBEKAH:** How can you stand up for Esau when he sold his birthright for a bowl of stew?

**ISAAC:** You always stick up for Jacob. You are always making excuses for him. Maybe if we'd been stricter with him, he wouldn't have turned out so badly!

**REBEKAH:** There's nothing wrong with Jacob!

**ISAAC:** I'm dying and he leaves town. And you say there's nothing wrong with him. *(REBEKAH and ISAAC exit.)*

**ENOCH:** *(To SHIBAH.)* He left town?

**SHIBAH:** Yes, my ambitious husband, he's left town! When Isaac dies, what do you think will happen to us?

**ENOCH:** I dread to think.

**ESAU:** *(Entering.)* How could my father have mistaken Jacob for me?

**ENOCH:** Well, your father IS blind.

**ESAU:** All he had to do was touch him. Look at me! I have hair on my arms and hands. My brother Jacob is COMPLETELY hairless on his arms and hands. He looks like a baby!

**SHIBAH:** I believe he wore goat hair on his arms and legs.

**ESAU:** Goat hair? OK. So maybe he could fool my father's touch. But couldn't my father tell it wasn't my voice?

**ENOCH:** Well, he IS pretty old.

**SHIBAH:** *(To ESAU.)* I understand your father asked several times if it was really you, or if the man before him was Esau, and Jacob told him yes.

**ESAU:** That liar! *(To SHIBAH.)* How did you know?

**SHIBAH:** Oh, I just heard rumors.

**ESAU:** Rumors! Ha! If someone heard, then someone saw! And they didn't stop it!

**ENOCH:** This is just awful, my master! Please let me help you find this person who allowed you to suffer so.

**ESAU:** I thought you were on Jacob's side.

**ENOCH:** I am your FATHER'S servant. I try to serve ALL the members of his family faithfully.

**ESAU:** Good! You can serve me! The first thing we need to do is find my brother, Jacob! He's gonna pay for this one. *(ESAU exits.)*

**ENOCH:** *(To SHIBAH.)* So how DID you know what Isaac said?

**SHIBAH:** Who do you think helped Rebekah tie the goatskins on Jacob?

**ENOCH:** You? *(SHIBAH nods her head.)* How long ago did Jacob leave?

**SHIBAH:** Not long.

**ENOCH:** Maybe if we hurry, we can catch up to him.

For the  
real story  
read Genesis  
37; 39

## A Greek Tragedy\*: Joseph's Tale

**Characters:** **CHORUS** (In an ancient Greek drama the chorus acted as narrators and sometimes as a character's conscience.) Two or more students read in unison; **JOSEPH**, an enthusiastic, happy, seventeen-year-old Bible-times hero; **BROTHERS**, Joseph's ten bitter and jealous brothers. (Ben, the eleventh brother, loved Joseph.) Two or more students read in unison; **BIBLICAL AUTHORITY**, the one who makes sure the tragedy writer gets it right; **POTIPHAR**, a rich official for the Pharaoh (or King) of Egypt

**Scene:** *An empty stage. (The ancient Greeks didn't use scenery.)*

**CHORUS:** Today we present for you the tragedy of Joseph's life.

**JOSEPH:** Tragedy of my life? My life's not a

tragedy! Just look at this great coat my dad gave me. And I had this really neat dream last night! The moon and the sun...

**BROTHERS:** ... and the stars all bowed down before him. Look at him! He thinks he's greater than we are. We've got to do something about Joseph!

**CHORUS:** Hey, you guys are skipping ahead! Our part is first! There once lived a man named Jacob, and Jacob had twelve sons, but his favorite son was the next to the youngest one.

**BROTHERS:** Oh, yeah? Well we can rhyme, too. We have thought of a devious plan to rid ourselves of this irritating young man! When he comes to see us, and he will, we'll kill him by throwing him in this well.

**CHORUS:** But instead of killing him, the brothers decided to sell Joseph as a slave.

**BROTHERS:** We make more money that way, and we won't have to break any commandments.

**BIBLICAL AUTHORITY:** Psst. Guys, the 10 Commandments haven't been written yet.

**BROTHERS:** Don't bother us with technicalities. We did something about that Joseph!

**CHORUS:** Poor, poor Joseph, who used to be free, was now tied up and bound for slavery.

**JOSEPH:** Well, this is a real bummer. I didn't even get to tell Dad good-bye. But as long as God is with me I have nothing to fear.

**CHORUS:** Joseph was sold for a good fee to an Egyptian named Potiphar.

**JOSEPH:** This is certainly a nasty development. I hardly had any chores at home—

\* tragedy=having a sad or disastrous ending

now it's work, work, work all the time. And if I don't work, I could get beaten.

**POTIPHAR:** That's right, so quit your yapping and get to work!

**JOSEPH:** If it's work you want me to do, then I'm going to do my best job! That's what God would want!

**CHORUS:** Joseph worked very hard. In fact, Potiphar was really impressed.

**POTIPHAR:** Joseph, my boy, I've been really pleased with your work, and I'd like to give you a promotion.

**JOSEPH:** Freedom would be better, but a promotion is nice.

**POTIPHAR:** Huh? Er, yes, well... Son, I'm going to put you in charge of my entire household. That means you'll be the boss in this house, ah, except for over me...um, and my wife.

**JOSEPH:** Yes, sir. I'll do my best!

**BROTHERS:** We can't believe this! There he is, Mr. Goody-goody doing great again! We wish someone would do something about Joseph!

**BIBLICAL AUTHORITY:** Psst, guys, actually Joseph's brothers had NO idea about what had happened to Joseph.

**BROTHERS:** Oh, sorry. (*Whisper.*) But we wish someone would do something about Joseph.

**CHORUS:** Potiphar wasn't the only one who was impressed with Joseph, Potiphar's wife was also impressed!

**JOSEPH:** She must like my great work!

**BIBLICAL AUTHORITY:** Psst, it says here in the Bible she thought you were really handsome.

**JOSEPH:** Handsome? Really? Wow! That's great! Hey, wait a minute. This could be a problem.

**CHORUS:** Uh-huh.

**JOSEPH:** She's married—to my master! I've got to set her straight on this.

**CHORUS:** Poor, poor Joseph. When he refused Potiphar's wife, she got angry and told Potiphar a lie about Joseph.

**POTIPHAR:** He did WHAT?!?

**CHORUS:** Potiphar believed his wife's lie and had Joseph thrown into prison.

**BROTHERS:** Alright!!!

**BIBLICAL AUTHORITY:** Guys...

**BROTHERS:** Yeah, yeah, we aren't supposed to know. (*Whisper.*) But someone did something about Joseph. Maybe now he won't be so happy and enthusiastic. Maybe now he'll be bitter, like us!

**CHORUS:** Poor, poor Joseph!

**JOSEPH:** Well, this IS a nasty turn of events. But I know God is with me. And I'll do my best!

**BROTHERS:** (*Groan.*)