



*Written by  
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## “Saving Grace”

**Scripture:** Ephesians 2: 1-10

**Dramatic Category:** Christian Mime Theater

### What is "Christian Mime Theater"?

During the “voice over” reading of the scripture, people come to life in various light pools across the stage. The people represent modern enactments of the timeless Word of God, which is being heard by the audience. For example, in the “Parable of the Great Banquet” in Luke 14, the actors reject the king’s invitation to the great banquet because they are admiring their new car during the reading of the scripture, “I have purchased a set of oxen, and I must go try them out. Please consider me excused.” The potential for staging these animated scripture readings is endless; all it takes is imagination to transport the messages from yesterday into today.

"Christian Mime Theater" provides very memorable introductions, conclusions, or midway examples for the pastor as he presents the sermon.

This form has the same qualities as the "Skermion," which gives your drama ministry a firsthand opportunity to creatively translate scripture into visual pictures. This is a very effective way to present the "scripture reading" in your service, or link with the pastor to create a sermon illustration that will compliment any topical or expository sermon.

**Topic:** Appropriating God’s grace in your life

**Performance Time:** 5 minutes

**Number of Players:** 8 players (*men or women*)

### Objective:

To show that God’s grace is freely given; however, we have to accept it.

**Synopsis:**

This “Christian Mime Theater” skit portrays a visual picture of grace: "God's unmerited favor." Six hikers are spread out across the stage. They are compared to six Christians, on their Christian life journey.

The Narrator reads the text from Ephesians as each one of the hikers takes step after step in the direction of the goal. Each one has a choice to make when he/she falls: to accept the help of the character who portrays God’s “Grace,” or to reject the help of “Grace.” All of them, except one, accept her help. The one who rejects, limps off stage alone, in the direction from whence she came; she makes no progress on the journey, and so it is with all those who reject God's grace.

**Cast:**

Narrator:  
Grace:  
Person A:  
Person B:  
Person C:  
Person D:  
Person E:  
Person F:

**Props:***Hiking equipment*

Hiking shoes  
Walking pants or jeans  
T-shirts  
Sweaters  
Jackets  
Visors  
Hats  
Sunglasses  
Water bottles or canteens  
Maps  
Lunches  
Walking sticks, etc.

*General props*

A candy bar  
An arm sling  
A backpack for Grace  
A bell or chimes (for sound effect)

**Costumes:** *(all, except Narrator and Grace, dressed for a hiking journey)*

Grace: *dressed all in white:*  
White jeans, white shirts, white tennis shoes, white socks, white hat or visor,  
white sweater, etc...

**Sound:**

A microphone for the Narrator  
Ring a bell or use chimes when it is time for the players to take a step.

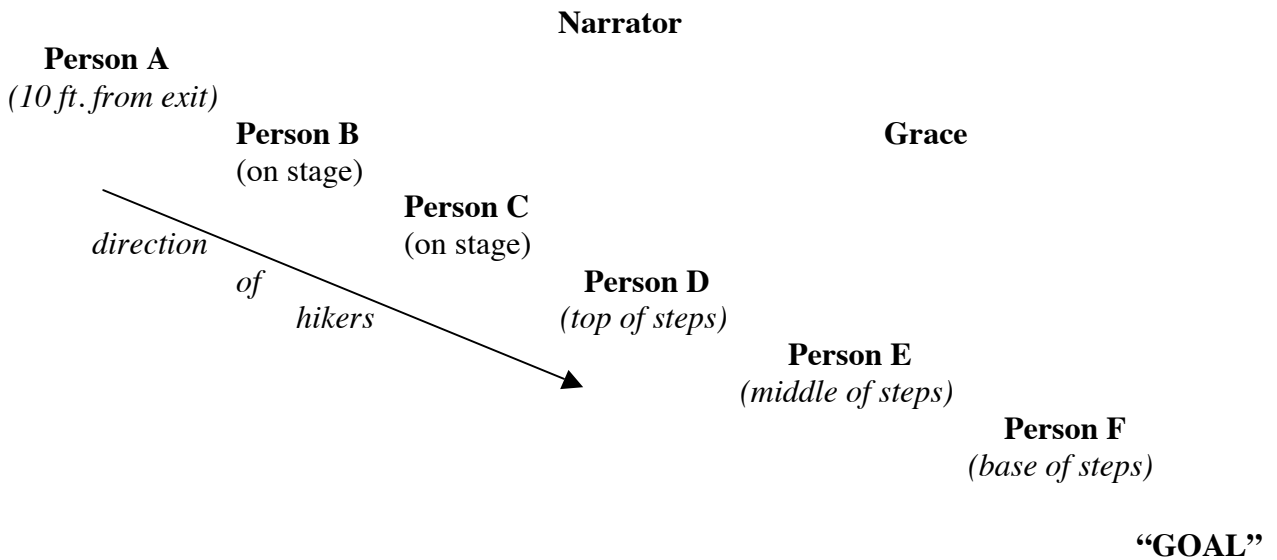
**NOTE:**

It is too confusing for the “hikers” to listen for a “word cue” during the narration, so give this script to someone who follows along and rings the bell or the chimes, when it is time to take a step.

**Lights:** General stage lighting

**Staging Arrangement:**

*(Each person is frozen in a walking pose. Each pose is different.)*



**NOTE:**

The hikers do not have any lines. This skit is entirely done in pantomime and with the use of the "tableau" (hikers freeze, like mannequins). The Narrator walks around the hikers during the various commentaries, coming close to the hikers who represent the illustrations of the scriptural ideas being presented in the scripted commentary.

## The Script:

*(All the hikers face in the direction of down stage right, except Grace, who stands with her back to the audience, facing the back wall. See the stage arrangement diagram, above.)*

**Narrator:** *(to the audience)* The Christian life has often been compared to a journey, a race, or an adventure.  
Each of these events requires that the participants keep their destination firmly in mind and concentrate on reaching the finish. They must not allow distractions to get them "off track."

### CHIMES

**Pose 2: Each hiker takes one step in the direction of the goal.**

*(motioning to the hikers)* Imagine that you are one of these hikers, striving to enjoy your reward at the top of the mountain. You imagine yourself sipping icy water, soaking your hot, tired feet in the cool mountain stream, then resting your weary body in the breezy shade of a giant tree.

### CHIMES

**Pose 3: Each hiker takes one more step in the direction of the goal.**

*(The narrator walks among the hikers, who are frozen in a hiking "tableau." She addresses them as she reads this script and makes the following observations:)*

Christians are like hikers.  
Each one of us is determined to "make it to the top,"  
and enjoy our heavenly rest in the presence of God.  
Throughout our journey, we have our destination in mind.

We have a great deal in common with these hikers.  
We get tired;  
we are prone to complaining,  
and sometimes we lose our focus,  
but God Himself reaches out to rescue us when we fall.  
He forgives us,  
even when we don't deserve it  
because we are precious to Him,  
and He desires our fellowship.

God's attitude toward us is called Grace.

*(Grace turns around and takes a bow)*

*(approaching Grace)*

Grace is spelled: G-R-A-C-E.

Imagine that it stands for God's Riches At Christ's Expense.

Grace also means "unmerited favor."

In other words, we have received "salvation,"

an enormous gift that none of us deserve:

We have been forgiven of our sins by almighty God through the death of Jesus Christ.

He took the punishment for our sin that was assigned to us. What a gift!

It is the grace of God that reached out and saved us.

Listen to Paul's definition of "grace" in Ephesians 2: 1-10,

and imagine that you are one of these Christians,

trying so hard to finish the journey.

Watch carefully, and see how God's grace reaches out to you.

*(The Narrator steps out of the way, opens her Bible, and begins to read:)*

Ephesians 2:1-10

"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world

and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air,

#### **CHIMES**

**Pose 3: Person A falls, everyone else takes one more step.**

...the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

#### **CHIMES**

**Pose 4: Person D falls, everyone else takes one more step.**

All of us also lived among them at one time,

gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature

and following its desire and thoughts.

#### **CHIMES**

**Pose 5: Person B falls, everyone else takes one more step.**

Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

#### **CHIMES**

**Pose 6: Person F falls, everyone else takes one more step.**

But because of His great love for us,

God, who is rich in mercy,

made us alive with Christ

even when we were dead in our transgressions...

*(Grace runs to Person D and offers her a candy bar as she helps her up.)*

...it is by grace you have been saved.

## **CHIMES**

**Pose 7: Person D resumes the walking pose. All but F, A, & B, take another step.**

And God raised us up with Christ

*(Grace tries to lift up Person F, but she turns her back to Grace. She is now facing the audience and Grace is stunned.)*

... and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

*(Grace tries to reason with Person F in pantomime, pointing to heaven and pleading with her.)*

... in order that in the coming ages  
He might show the incomparable riches of His grace,  
expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

*(Person F refuses Grace's help, remains on the floor, folds her arms and pouts.)*

For it is by grace you have been saved,

*(Grace moves on to Person B and offers her some water.)*

...through faith;  
and this not from yourselves,  
it is the gift of God...

*(Person B eagerly accepts her help, and gets up off the floor. Person B gives Grace a big hug.)*

...not by works, so that no one can boast.

## **CHIMES**

**Pose 8: Everyone except F & A take another step.**

For we are God's workmanship,

*(Grace runs over to Person A and tries to pull her up. Person A winches in pain, so Grace puts a sling around her neck to support her arm, then gingerly helps her up.)*

created in Christ Jesus to do good works,  
which God prepared in advance for us to do."

## CHIMES

**Pose 9: Everyone, except F takes another step.**

*(Person F sits squarely on the floor, pouting and facing out to the audience. Grace proudly surveys the ones who have been "set right" and are now on their way. The narrator approaches Person F, stands behind her, and faces the audience.)*

**Narrator:** Now you see the result of refusing God's Grace;  
it stops you dead in your tracks.  
If you turn your back on God's grace,  
you are cutting yourself off from the source of your help.  
God is reaching out to rescue you.  
He stands ready to forgive you of your failed attempts at living the Christian life,  
but the choice is yours.

Will you take His hand?  
Will you admit that you need His help?  
Or, will you stubbornly refuse Him as He constantly reaches out to you?  
God is a gentleman;  
He will not force you to carry out His will.  
He gave us another gift, that He refuses to take away:  
Free will.

Will you accept or reject God's grace?  
You are free to choose.

*(All the characters hike off stage, finally Person F hobbles off as well...in the other direction.)*

**The End**