



Written by
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“The Heart of God”

Preview Script

Scriptures:

John 1:14

“The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him, will not die but have everlasting life."

Dramatic Category: Full-length Christian Play

Topic: Christmas and Easter stories

Performance Time: 45-60 minutes

Number of Players: 2 or more players (*one little girl and one older man + several mimes*)

Objective:

This "Christian Play" explains the reason for God becoming man in the form of Jesus Christ: to speak His truth to us Himself, and to take the punishment that was intended for us so that we may have eternal fellowship with Him. In the simple story of a heartbroken little girl, searching for her lost hamsters, we see the "Heart of God."

Synopsis:

This one-act play tells the story of Jeanie, a broken-hearted little girl who is up all night, searching for her beloved hamsters. They ran away just because she left the cage door open, so they wouldn't feel trapped. As she calls for them in the middle of the night, she wakes up her Grandpa, who has fallen asleep on the couch while reading the Bible.

Grandpa attempts to take her mind off of her tragedy by reading to her a story about someone else who lost His beloved creatures and has a broken heart, too: God! Grandpa takes Jeanie on an imaginary journey through the Bible, from the Garden of Eden to the stable in Bethlehem, and finally to the cross of redemption. In the style of a "one-man-show," Grandpa becomes several of the main characters who called out to God's people, just like Jeannie called out to her hamsters.

God's broken heart is the focus of the story as the theme of "returning to Him" is presented. It is the common thread that ties our familiar Bible stories together. The Gospel story is told with charm and imagination, in a way that will communicate to young and old alike.

NOTES:

This "Christian Play" is ideal for either a **Christmas celebration** or an **Easter special**. Four songs, of your choosing, are illustrated by mimes in a pantomime/dance style at four places in this play. This is an excellent play for holiday outreach or "Dinner Theater."

This play also comes in a Christmas musical version entitled, "A Heartfelt Christmas" (item #CP5), and incorporates many more characters in the cast. It can serve as the storyline for a Christmas musical with multiple choirs of all ages and special music numbers interspersed throughout the scenes. You select the holiday songs. No music is provided in the script. It's great fun to perform! Download the FREE Preview Scenario of "A Heartfelt Christmas" (item #CP05).

Cast:

Jeanne: *A little girl of six or eight (an older girl who looks younger)*
Grandpa: *Her grandfather and the very animated "teacher" in the story*
Female mimes (2 or more): *Play various parts*
Male mimes (2 or more): *Play various parts*

Props:

A Bible for Grandpa (with a "**cheat script**" inserted into various pages)
A bottle of heart pills ("Tic-tacs" are fine)
A telephone
A doll for Jeanne to carry
Some children's books
Post-it notes stuck on various items on stage
A floral wreath for the mime portraying Eve to wear
A bouquet of flowers for the mime portraying Eve to carry
Three gifts representing the gifts to the Christ child
A muslin rag with a red bloodstain in the center

NOTE:

This script is a challenge for Grandpa. Insert a "cheat script" into his Bible so he can read parts of it right out of his Bible as he reads to Jeanne.

Costumes:

A flannel nightgown for Jeanne
A muffler, a cardigan sweater and a cane for grandpa
Black mime outfits, long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and white gloves for each mime
Do not use the white-faced mimes; it looks clownish, or frightening.

Sound: Wireless mics for Grandpa and Jeanne

Music:

Recording of any song of your choice for **mime routine 1: "The Fall"**
(Suggestion: "Adam, Adam" by Don Francisco)

Recording of any song of your choice for **mime routine 2: "The Miracle"**
(Suggestion: "Mary Did You Know" recorded by Michael English)

Recording of any song of your choice for **mime routine 3: "The Passion"**
(Suggestion: "Watch The Lamb" by Ray Boltz)

Recording of any song of your choice for **mime routine 4: "The Choice"**
(Suggestion: "Give Your Heart A Home" by Don Francisco)

NOTE: Whatever songs you choose, secure permission to play or perform a rendition of it.

Lights:

Isolate the two sides of the stage with light pools so that one side goes dark when the other side "comes to life." (see stage arrangement below)

Add special effect lighting for the various moods reflected in the songs chosen for the mimes.

Stage Arrangement:



NOTES:

If this is being done for Christmas, add a Christmas tree to the living room scene.

If you choose not to include music and the mimes, set "The Living Room" in the center.

The Script:

DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

Some of these speeches are long, so add "visual interest" to the speeches by having Grandpa get up from his chair and act out the parts as he tells Jeanne the stories. He should stand up on the chair, walk on the sofa, stick his cane in the air, take his knitted muffler and use it as a prayer shawl. Make him eccentric and interesting, so that watching him is half the fun!

Scene 1: "The Loss"

(Grandpa is seated DL, asleep with the opened Bible on his chest. Jeanne enters, from UR dressed in a flannel nightgown and swinging her little doll. She is peering all around, putting up Post-it notes that say "Beware of Cats," or "Hamsters, Come Home," etc. and calling softly.)

LIGHTS: SLOW FADE UP TO FULL ON POOL 1, POOL 2 OFF

Jeanne: Fred, Barney.
Where are you?
Fred, come out. Barney, come...

(She stops in mid-sentence as she sees grandpa asleep on the chair. She thinks he is dead and runs over to him. She shakes him violently.)

Grandpa! Don't die!
Grandpa, please, wake-up!

Grandpa: *(startled)* What? Who?
What's the matter?
Oh, Jeanne, it's you.
You scared me right out of my skin, little one.

Jeanne: I thought you were dead!

Grandpa: No such luck, Princess;
I'll have to stick around another day.

Jeanne: Don't talk like that.
You promised Mommy you'd stop making jokes about dying.
You're not funny!

Grandpa: Lots of people agree with you on that one.

Jeanne: What?

Grandpa: That I'm not funny.

Jeanne: *(comforting him)* Yeah, but you keep trying.

Grandpa: I know, I'm trying; very trying.

Jeanne: *(beginning to lecture him)*
You can't be too careful when you have heart trouble.
It's a very serious thing when your heart attacks you.

Grandpa: Does what?

Jeanne: That's what mommy said could happen;
you could have a heart attack,
and you have to be very careful.

(making him comfortable)
There, now; don't get excited.

Grandpa: *(pushing her away)* Okay, okay, enough of this heart attack business.
If I have any more fanatical female fussing,
I'm gonna' fume!

(regaining his composure)
So, tell me;
why are you up at this late hour?
This whole family knocked off hours, ago.

Jeanne: *(in a warning tone)* Grandpa!

Grandpa: *(defensively)* What?

Jeanne: *(warning him about dying jokes)* Knocked off?

Grandpa: Okay, went to bed.
What are you doing up?

Jeanne: I can't sleep.
I'm too worried about Fred and Barney.

(She sits down on the floor and leans on his knee.)

Grandpa: *(leaning down to her)*
You haven't found those hamsters, yet?

Jeanne: No, and I've been looking all day!

Grandpa: You shouldn't have left the cage door open.
I told you, hamsters don't understand an "open door policy."

Jeanne: But I didn't want them to feel trapped,
like they were prisoners or something.
That would have ruined everything.
I worked so hard on that cage.
Did you see it?

Grandpa: Yes Princess, I saw it.
It was pretty swank,
especially those little beds you made with matching blankets,
and that "Home Sweet Home" sign should have been enough to make 'em stay.

Jeanne: I'm so worried about them.
They need me to take care of them;
they don't know how to survive unless I'm right there.

Grandpa: *(putting his arm around her)* Maybe they aren't Fred and Barney;
maybe they're Betty and Wilma and they went shopping!

Jeanne: Grandpa! You're not funny!

Grandpa: Yeah, you keep bringing that up.
Well, Princess, this may be a hard thing for you to swallow,
but did you put the cats out?

Jeanne: Did you have to say swallow?

Grandpa: Sorry.

Jeanne: Yes, I put the cats out as soon I found out my hamsters ran away.
I've tried everything, Grandpa,
and I just can't find them.

(She begins to cry.)

Grandpa: *(comforting her)* Princess, I'm so sorry your hamsters ran away,
but maybe they'll come back.

Jeanne: *(through her tears)* I told them not to go out,
but they didn't listen,
now they're lost!

Grandpa: *(grabbing for ideas)* Uh.... Hey,
how about if I read you a story to take your mind off of what you lost, okay?
How about it?

Jeanne: What kind of story?

(Grandpa pulls several children's books off of a nearby stack. He shows each one to Jeanne, but she's not interested.)

Grandpa: *(He removes the post-it note that is on the book.)* How about this one?

Jeanne: No, I'm not in the mood for those, besides,
(pointing to one of the books) you cheat when you read this one.

Grandpa: Cheat?

Jeanne: Yeah, you turn two pages at one time,
and you think I can't tell?
Well, I can.

Grandpa: You are pretty slick!
So, what do you want me to read to you?

Jeanne: *(pointing to the Bible on his lap)* This story.

Grandpa: The Bible?

Jeanne: Yes. Read me the whole thing.
I'm not sleepy.

Grandpa: Jeanne,
I can't read this to you in one night!

Jeanne: It's okay if you cheat a little,
but read the main parts.

(Grandpa opens his Bible and settles down to read. He is about to start, then peeks over the Bible at Jeanne.)

Grandpa: You and I have a lot in common with the main character in this story.

Jeanne: *(surprised)* We do?

Grandpa: Yep. He's got heart trouble, and He lost his hamsters.

Jeanne: What?
Grandpa! That's the Bible, and it's the story about God.

Grandpa: I know.
God's beloved creatures ran away,
and they've been causing Him heart trouble ever since. Listen:

(Reading from his Bible in Genesis, which is actually his "cheat script," stuck into his Bible:)

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness (*lights begin to fade on pool 1*) was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, 'Let there be light,' (*lights fade up on pool 2*) and there was light."

LIGHTS: FADE DOWN TO 25% ON POOL 1, UP FULL ON POOL 2

Scene 2: Illustrated Mime 1 "The Fall"

MUSIC: PLAY THE SONG CHOSEN TO ILLUSTRATE MIME 1

(Choose a song that celebrates the creation and tells the story of the fall. Don Francisco's "Adam, Adam," has been highly successful in this program. The mimes act out the words of the song as though they were Jeanne's imagination as she listens to Grandpa tell the story. In the shadowy light at stage right, Grandpa continues to read to her, but he mouths the words silently as he turns the pages. She reacts only slightly, but mostly she is actively imagining the events.)

This story continues as Grandpa tells Jeanne the story of God's attempts to restore fellowship with man throughout the Old Testament covenants, finally culminating in the New Testament, at the cross, as God takes the punishment on Himself that was intended for man.

Order "The Heart of God" (item #CP4) at inkspirations.org