



Written by
Cora Alley

“The Heart of God”

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.)

LIGHTS: DOWN ON POOL 2, UP TO FULL ON POOL 1

Scene 3: "The Chase"

(After the mimes disappear, the scene continues between Grandpa and Jeanne.)

Jeanne: Poor God!
Adam and Eve made Him so sad.

Grandpa: (*nodding his head*) Now, do you see why you and God have a lot in common?
You both want your precious creatures back,
so they can love you,
and you can love them.

Jeanne: I know how God's heart feels.
But, why did God put that yummy tree in the middle of the garden,
then tell them not to touch it?

Grandpa: Why did you leave your cage door open?

Jeanne: So they would feel free.

Grandpa: Free to choose?
Free to come or go?
You see, Princess, love isn't really love unless it is given freely;
and to give it freely,
you have to have the choice to not give it.
God didn't want prisoners, either.

Jeanne: (*doesn't understand the depth of that statement*) Huh?

Grandpa: God wanted the love of mankind to be given freely,
so He had to give them the option to not give it at all.
That's why the world is in the mess that it's in.
People are still choosing not to love God;
they'd rather be God themselves,
and make up their own rules.

Jeanne: Some people are not too smart, huh?
Don't they know who made their cage?
I mean, who made the world?
So, did God try to get them back?
Did he go hunting for them?

Grandpa: Well, yes.
As the children of Adam and Eve had children,
and their children had children,
the world filled up with people.
Some of them obeyed God,
but most of them did not.
Finally, there was only one family on the earth that obeyed God and loved him.
That was the family of Noah.

Jeanne: Nobody else believed in God?

Grandpa: Oh, they believed all right,
but not in the one true God;
they believed in hundreds of false gods.

Jeanne: What's a false god?

Grandpa: *(thinking)* Hmm, let me explain it to you this way.
How would you feel if your hamsters showed up at Mandy's house,
and asked to live with her hamsters because they didn't like you anymore.

Jeanne: *(shocked)* What?
Mandy keeps her hamsters locked up.
She doesn't trust 'em.
Oh, I'd be so mad!

Grandpa: Wouldn't that give you heart trouble?

Jeanne: That would break my heart.

Grandpa: It broke God's heart too, listen to what He did.

(He opens his Bible to the next section that has the script in it.)

"The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become...
the Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth,
and his heart was filled with pain.
So the Lord said, 'I will wipe mankind from the face of the earth....
for I am grieved that I have made them.
But, Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.'"

Jeanne: Oh, I know that story;
about the Ark and the animals who came in twos.

Grandpa: Yep, you might say Noah was the world's first Arkiologist!
(He laughs to himself.)

Jeanne: Hey, that was pretty funny, Grandpa.

Grandpa: Well, I guess there's a first time for everything.
So, God flooded the whole earth with water,
and every living thing was wiped out.
Kinda' like when your mom hoses out the patio
and all the bugs and lizards go flyin'.

Jeanne: So God started over with a whole new Adam and Eve,
except this time it was Mr. & Mrs. Noah?

Grandpa: That's right, and everything worked out okay for a while,
but pretty soon people started worshipping false gods again.

Jeanne: No!
(She gets up and starts to pace.)
That's terrible!
After everything God did for them,
how could they do that?

Grandpa: I'm sure God felt the same way,
but He patched up His broken heart
and tried again with another family;
this time it was the family of Abraham.
God picked out Abraham because Abraham worshipped the one true God,
and didn't bow down to false gods.
As a reward for Abraham's faithfulness,
God promised Him this:

"I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you.
I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on the earth will be blessed through you. "

He took him on a journey to a promised land called Canaan...
Everything went pretty well,
until there was a famine in Canaan,
and the family of Abraham ended up in Egypt
because that's where the food was.
You know what they did while they were in Egypt?

Jeanne: Don't tell me they started worshipping false gods again?

Grandpa: Yep!
They started marrying Egyptian people and worshipping false gods.
This time God did something kinda' like what you did this afternoon
with all these little post-it notes.
(He grabs a post-it note that was on the book, and tries to get it off his finger.)

Jeanne: He made signs for his people?

Grandpa: Well, He didn't make signs that said, "Cage This Way"
or "Beware of Cats" or "I Love You Hamsters," like you did,
but He did leave His people a message that He wrote with His own hand.

Jeanne: What did He write on?

Grandpa: Stone tablets.

Jeanne: Tablets?

Grandpa: Not the kind you take with a glass of water,
these are like really big post-it notes made of rock!
He chose a man by the name of Moses to lead His people out of Egypt
and back to the promised land of Canaan.

*(He gets up on the chair (he may want to take his Bible with him) or on the edge of the sofa,
and pretends to climb a mountain with his cane as he tells this story.)*

Moses gathered the people at the foot of Mount Sinai
and he hiked up to the top and got a note from God called the Ten Commandments.
God wanted his people to obey his rules and survive.
He made a law that if anyone broke His commandments,
He would not forgive them
unless they sacrificed a perfect animal by shedding its blood.

Jeanne: Shed the blood? You mean...?

Grandpa: Kill it.
That's right.
God figured that these people would think twice about disobeying God
if they had to kill their favorite, perfect animals.
Usually, they killed a perfect little lamb.

Jeanne: (*horrified*) What?
Are you kidding?
What did the lamb ever do wrong?

Grandpa: Nothing!
That's just the point!
See, they were all farmers, and they needed their animals to stay alive.
God wanted them to know that the sin of disobeying God brought death,
so the law of sacrifice was a pretty good object lesson
of what happens to human beings
who decide to leave God out of their lives.

Jeanne: Did it work, Grandpa?
Did people stop breaking God's heart?
Did they stop worshipping false God's and being stupid.

Grandpa: It worked for some people,
but most of them just went on living their own way.

Jeanne: What did God do then?

Grandpa: The same thing you did after Mom told you these post-it notes wouldn't work
because hamsters can't read.

Do you remember what you did?

Jeanne: I called my friends.

Grandpa: That's right, and what did you ask them to do?

Jeanne: To look for my hamsters.
They did, too.

Grandpa: I know.
I heard Kathy, and Beth, and Sandy calling for those hamsters all afternoon.

Jeanne: (*sadly*) They didn't find 'em, though.
Did God send His friends to look for His people?

Grandpa: (*coming down off the couch*)
Yep, He sure did.
His friends are called prophets,
and the Old Testament is full of their voices calling to God's people,
asking them to turn from their wicked ways and worship the God who loves them.
Listen to what God's friend Jeremiah says,

(He gets up and takes the stance of a prophet; he puts his muffler around his head like a biblical headdress and points his finger, and motions as he reads.)

"Your fathers left me, declares the Lord,
and followed other gods,
and served and worshipped them.
They left me and did not keep my law.

But you have behaved more wickedly than your fathers.
See how each of you is following the stubbornness of his evil heart
instead of obeying me."

But Jeremiah goes on to say,

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
His mercies never come to an end.
They are new every morning, great is thy faithfulness."

And listen to what God's friend Micah says,

(He takes off the muffler, ties it around his waist and grabs the cane.)

"He has shown thee, oh man,
what is good and what the Lord requires of you.
To act justly,
and to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with your God. "

Jeanne: *(clapping at grandpa's performance)* Very good, Grandpa!
You make a good prophet.

Grandpa: *(returning to his seat)* Better a prophet than a loss.

Jeanne: *(puzzled)* Huh?

Grandpa: Never mind, it probably wasn't funny.

Jeanne: Did it work?
Did God's friends get God's people to go back to Him?

Grandpa: Well, it worked for some,
but most of them kept right on disobeying God,
and their lives were a mess.

Jeanne: They must have run out of lambs
if they kept killing one every time they did a sin.

Grandpa: They tried to trick God.

Jeanne: How?

Grandpa: They raised animals especially for sacrifice.
They even bought lambs at the temple.
The sacrifice didn't mean a thing to them,
because it didn't cost them anything.

Jeanne: Did God cry, too?
That's all I can do, Grandpa.
(She bursts into tears.)

When I think about my hamsters.
I've tried everything to get them back where they will be safe.
I think maybe they got outside,
and the cats ate them.
Mom's right,
the notes don't do any good; they can't read!
They don't speak English,
so I could call them 'till I'm blue in the face,
there's just no way to get them to understand me.

I wish I could just become a hamster and talk to them in their own language.

Grandpa: That's exactly what God did.

Jeanne: *(puzzled)* God became a hamster?

Grandpa: No, He became a human being.
An angel went to a young girl,
only a few years older than you are,
named Mary, and He said,

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

Scene 4: Illustrated Mime 2 "The Miracle"

MUSIC: PLAY THE SONG CHOSEN TO ILLUSTRATE MIME 2

(Choose a song that celebrates the birth of Christ. Mark Lowry's song, "Mary Did You Know," recorded by Michael English, 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. NOTE: If Grandpa is a singer, it is effective for him to sing the song to Jeanne.)

LIGHTS: DOWN ON POOL 2, UP ON POOL 1

Scene 5: "The Price"

(After the song, Jeanne stares at her baby doll in disbelief.)

Jeanne: That little baby we see in the manger on all those Christmas cards
was really God stuffed into a little body?
Did Mary know that her baby was really God?

Grandpa: She knew that He would be
"great and be called the Son of the Most high,
and His kingdom will never end."
But, I think the ministry of Jesus surprised her as much as it did many people.

Jeanne: Why?

Grandpa: Well, Jesus did a lot of things that were unexpected.
He raised quite a few eyebrows at a mountain picnic one day,

(Grandpa sits up on the top of his chair, with Jeanne at his feet. He pretends to be Jesus by putting the muffler back on his head.)

listen:

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God.
Blessed are you when people insult you,
persecute you
and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me...

You have heard it said, 'Do not murder,'
but I say to you
that anyone who is angry with his brother
will be subject to judgment.

You have heard it said, 'Love your neighbors and hate your enemies,'
but I tell you;
love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
that you may be sons of your father in Heaven."

You see, Princess,
God had always promised His people that He would send a Messiah,
but Jesus wasn't quite the kind of Messiah people expected.

Jeanne: What's a Messiah?

Grandpa: Messiah means savior.
One who saves someone from something awful.
Like last summer, when you fell into the lake.
Who fished you out?

Jeanne: Daddy,
then he got mad at me for going in by myself.

Grandpa: Your daddy was your savior at that moment.
Without him, you would have died.

God's people expected that Jesus would become a great military leader
and save them from their enemies,
instead,
He came as a great spiritual leader to save them from their own wicked hearts.

Jesus taught people how to live,
how to love each other,
and how to love God.
Seeing Jesus was like seeing God,
and hearing His voice was like hearing the voice of God.
Jesus even said,
"He who has seen Me has seen the Father,
for the Father and I are one."

Jesus healed the sick;
forgave those who were truly sorry for their sins,
and everywhere He went He preached the Good News that God loves them.

Jeanne: I'll bet He put an end to their cheating.

Grandpa: What cheating?

Jeanne: When they bought animals to sacrifice
instead of bringing the best ones from home.
That must have made Jesus pretty mad.

Grandpa: As a matter of fact, it did.
Jesus was in the temple one day,
and when He saw people buying and selling animals for sacrifice,
He got so angry that He made a whip out of a rope
and chased them all out of the temple.

(Grandpa uses his muffler as a whip to demonstrate and chases Jeanne around the couch.)

But that was not the most shocking thing He ever did.

Jeanne: What was?

Grandpa: He rode into Jerusalem one day during the Passover.

Jeanne: What's the Passover?

Grandpa: *(mumbling to himself)* What's the Passover?
Well, let me see.
Do you remember when I told you that Abraham's family had gone to live in Egypt because there was no food in Canaan?

Jeanne: Yes.

(Use the Bible as a cheat script here, as though Grandpa is flipping through Genesis and summarizing the highlights of the story. Keep Grandpa very animated during this long speech.)

Grandpa: The ruler of Egypt was called Pharaoh,
and when Moses asked Pharaoh to let God's people go,
the Pharaoh said, "No."
He liked having God's people as slaves.
God gave old Pharaoh quite a hard time
because he refused to listen to Moses and let the people leave Egypt.

God turned the water into blood, killed off all the cattle,
made the place crawl with frogs,

(Grandpa swats imaginary frogs with his cane, Jeanne screams, and jumps up on the couch.)

but all these things just made Pharaoh more stubborn.
Finally, God decided to send the Angel of Death
to kill all the first born children of every family in Egypt,
but He didn't want the Angel of Death to kill the firstborn of God's people, the Jews,
so he devised a secret sign.

God told Moses to tell the Jewish people to kill a perfect lamb
and smear the blood of this lamb over the doorposts
of every home where God's people lived.
This way, the Angel of Death would "pass over" those homes
and God's children would be spared.

Of course, this changed Pharaoh's mind,
and He let God's people go.
To this very day,
Jewish people everywhere celebrate the Passover.
And that's what Jesus went to celebrate in Jerusalem.

Jeanne: Oh.
Was everybody happy to see Him there?

Grandpa: Well, it was about half and half.
Some shouted, "Hosanna! Praise God,"
and some shouted, "Kill Him!"

Jeanne: Kill Him?
Who would want to kill Jesus?

Grandpa: Jesus had a way of telling people the truth about themselves,
and they didn't like what He said.
Lots of people didn't believe He was really God in human form.

Jeanne: Was Jesus scared of them?

Grandpa: He wasn't real comfortable,
but He knew what He had come there to do,
and He was going to do it.

Jeanne: Was He going to throw more people out of the temple
'cause they were cheating about their sacrifices?

Grandpa: No.
He was going to put an end to the law of sacrifice forever,
by becoming the sacrifice Himself.

Jeanne: (*looking at Grandpa in disbelief*) What?
Jesus was going to be sacrificed?
Why?

Grandpa: Remember the law God made,
that He would not forgive sin unless a perfect animal was killed,
and its blood was shed?

Jeanne: Yes.

Grandpa: Jesus came to be that perfect lamb,
and His blood forgives the sins of everyone who believes in Him.

Jeanne: Did people know that Jesus was going to die like a lamb?

Grandpa: Some did, and they tried to help Him.

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

Scene 6: Illustrated Mime 3 "The Passion"

MUSIC: PLAY THE SONG CHOSEN FOR TO ILLUSTRATE MIME 3

(Choose a song that describes the crucifixion. Ray Boltz's song, Watch The Lamb" has been highly successful in this program. One solitary mime acts 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.)

LIGHTS: DOWN ON POOL 2, UP ON POOL 1

Scene 7: "The Question"

(Jeanne is in tears at the end of this song, and grandpa tries to comfort her.)

Jeanne: *(mumbling to herself in disbelief)*
I can't believe they killed Jesus.

Grandpa: Jesus was the Passover lamb.
The Angel of Death passes over all those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God,
and that His blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sins.

We will live forever with God, even after our bodies die!
You see, Princess,

(pointing to John 3:16 in his Bible)
"God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten
Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life."

Jeanne: Still, they killed God!

Grandpa: You can't kill God.
No grave is strong enough to hold the maker of Heaven and Earth!
Jesus was crucified on a Friday afternoon,
but on Sunday Morning, in a flash of power,
He rose from the dead!

Jeanne: He came back to life?

Grandpa: Stronger and more powerful than ever!
He appeared to His disciples and to hundreds of people;
then He went back to Heaven.
But, before He left,
He called his followers together and this is what He told them:

(Grandpa reads from His Bible as he stands up on the chair, looking down at Jeanne)

"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."

Christians have a wonderful story to tell.
It's the story of forgiveness because of the blood of Jesus.
Now, there is finally peace between God and His people.
That's why it is called the Good News.

Jeanne: *(jumping up and beginning to pace back and forth)*
So why isn't the world a happier place?
Why do Mommy and Daddy still hold on to me
like I might blow away whenever we go shopping?
How come I can't play after dark?
And why can't I talk to strangers?
And how come Beth's little brother got hurt when...

Grandpa: *(interrupting her)* Hold on there, Princess.
God doesn't keep prisoners, remember?
People still have a choice.
They can either believe in Jesus and live their lives to please God,
or they can reject God.
That's the plain and simple truth.

Jeanne: But why doesn't everybody believe in Jesus?
Why aren't they all doing what God wants?
If people don't come home to Him,
they're just going to get eaten by cats!

Grandpa: *(chuckling to himself)* Some people are pretty stubborn.
They think they can make themselves happy without God.

Jeanne: People can be almost as stupid as hamsters, huh?

Grandpa: Yes, Princess, they can.

Jeanne: Don't they know that Jesus fed himself to the cats
so people could make it back to the cage, I mean, get back to God?

Grandpa: That was very well put,
for a pint-sized theologian.
The way I look at it is that everybody has a big hole in their hearts,
and it is so big,
it can only be filled by the love of God.
But, people are so stubborn,
they try to fill it with everything else first.
Finally, after their lives are broken and confused,
it might occur to them to give their heart to God.

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

Scene 8: Illustrated Mime 4 "The Choice"

MUSIC: PLAY THE SONG CHOSEN FOR TO ILLUSTRATE MIME 4

(Choose a song that invites people to give their hearts to God. Don Francisco's song, "Give Your Heart A Home," 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.)

LIGHTS: DOWN ON POOL 2, UP ON POOL 1

Scene 9: "The Good News"

(After the song, Jeanne jumps up, grabs her post-it notes and tugs on grandpa's arm.)

Jeanne: *(excitedly)* Come on, Grandpa;
we've got to go change the world!

Grandpa: What? Now?
It's the middle of the night;
what do you want to do?

Jeanne: I have a whole bunch more of these post-it notes in my room.
I'll go get 'em,
but you have to start writing.

Grandpa: Start writing what?

Jeanne: Notes to people about Jesus.
We have to tell everybody that
Jesus died for us;
that He made it okay between us and God,
that we can live forever after we die if we believe in Him.

Grandpa: Princess, that's a great idea, but not now?
It's...

Jeanne: *(interrupting)* We can stick 'em up everywhere;
we'll start by putting them on all the mailboxes all up and down our street;
then we'll put them on door handles;
and I can put them all over the grocery store,
like on cans and stuff.

Grandpa: *(laughing)* Well, Princess,
what do you say we get some sleep first?
Sounds like we've got a lot of work to do in the morning
if we are going to plaster this town with post-it notes.

Who knows,
maybe while we're looking for people who need to give their heart to Jesus;
we'll find a couple of homesick hamsters, too.

Jeanne: *(hopeful)* Grandpa!
Do you really think so?
Do you think if we keep searching,
and keep calling we'll find them.

Grandpa: *(reassuring her)* Sure,
if it worked for God, maybe it'll work for us.

(They exit.)

LIGHTS: FADES TO BLACK

The End