



*Written by
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“The Bible, God’s Book of Directions”

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3: 16, 17

Dramatic Category: “Story Time Theater”

What is a “Story Time Theater”?

Each “Story Time Theater” selection aims at creating a contemporary parable that brings to life the message behind a scriptural concept or passage. This type of Christian Drama Skit features the pantomime/story-telling talents of four people: one male and one female mime, one “Story Lady,” and one pianist, who improvises music during the story. The mimes act out the events told by the Story Lady as she reads them. Each story takes approximately 10 minutes to tell. The entire family loves this art form: children and parents alike. These stories are excellent for adult worship or for the “children’s moment.”

Topic: The Bible is the “Book of Directions” for the Christian life

Performance Time: 10 minutes

Number of Players: 3 players (*2 female, 1 male*) + 1 pianist

Objective:

To stress the importance of reading the "directions," God’s word, so we can conform our lives to His ideal and not make a "mess" of our lives.

Synopsis:

This "Story Time Theater" portrays two examples of not following the directions. Michael builds a model and Emily bakes a cake. Both of them mess up their projects because they do not read the directions. So it is with the Christian life: If we do not follow the directions, The Bible, we will end up with many “messes” that could have been avoided if we would have submitted ourselves to the author of our lives, God, who gave us His Word as the directions for successfully living the Christian life.

Cast:

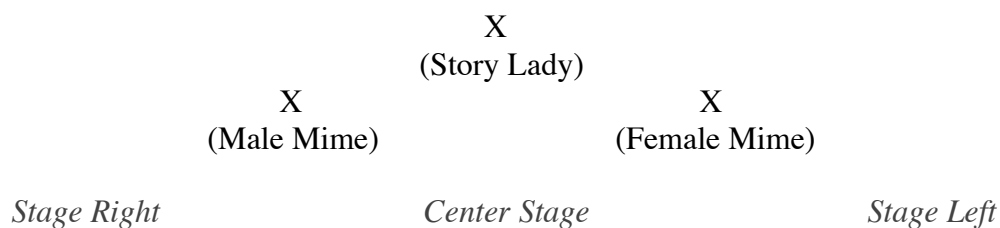
Female mime: *animated, expressive, dancer-type*
 Male mime: *animated, expressive, big eyes*
 The “Story Lady”: *an animated storyteller*
 The pianist: *improvises background music during the action of the story*

Costumes:

Mimes: Dress the mimes in matching black pants, black and white striped shirts, and white gloves, but **do not use white-faced make-up**
 Story Lady: Festive attire, classy, not clownish

Set:

Elevate the Story Lady on a platform just behind the playing space for the mimes.
 On ground level, place 2 chairs for the Mimes.

**Lighting Note:**

Light pools make this story even more dramatic.
 Create a light pool at stage right that surrounds the Mime’s chair.
 Create a light pool at center for the Story Lady.
 Create a light pool at stage left around the Mime’s chair.

Music Notes:

These are the songs, or types of music, that are suggested to be played during this story:
 Some type of space music: Star Wars, Star Trek, etc.
 A dragnet theme or something that spells out “danger”
 Music to reflect a little girl baking; select something light and fun
 “Jesus Loves Me”
 A triumphant hymn like, “Onward Christian Soldiers”

Production Notes:

1. Minimal actions and musical selections are suggested in the script in italics. These are made merely to guide your thinking.
2. The planning of these mime routines is intensely artistic and must reflect the interpretation of your own artists.
3. Be sure to select key words that pinpoint particular actions.
4. The mimes do not mouth the words the Story Lady speaks; even when she mentions what they said. It is better to have them respond with their eyes, hands, arms, etc.
5. Music is the thread that ties this story together. Plan it carefully so that it leads the action. Have the mimes wait for particular music cues for dramatic effect. The music seldom stops.
6. When the Story Lady plays adult parts, like the part of Mom or teacher, she does not move from her spot as the narrator. She simply leans forward and her eyes meet with the children at a mutual focal point over the heads of the audience, like an EXIT sign or a clock. This is a reader's theater technique that signals an imaginary meeting place for actors who do not relate to each other on the stage.
7. Some minimal lighting cues are suggested for effect, but this art form is very effective with just general stage lighting.

The Script:

NOTE:

The Story Lady's lines are written in bold

The actions (Story Lady and mimes) and musical suggestions are written in plain italic

LIGHTS: ALL LIGHTS UP

OPENING MUSIC: Some type of space music: Star Wars, Star Trek, etc.

Once upon a time there was a boy who loved to build things.

Michael enters and mimes the action as it is described.

He built kites, and space ships out of Legos, and at Christmas time he liked to build towers out of the boxes the presents came in, but what the boy loved building most of all were model airplanes.

One day, he was given a brand new model airplane kit. It had never been opened; the see-through paper was still on it!

MUSIC: Alternate music with another theme during the putting together of the model

He carefully tore off the paper, and opened up the box. Inside there were more pieces than he had ever seen! Underneath all the model pieces, was a big piece of paper.

It had the word "DIRECTIONS" written all over it.

The directions were written in tiny print, and some of it didn't make much sense to him.

Michael is clearly puzzled by the directions and wads them up.

The boy knew that putting this model together was not going to be easy, and he should really ask for some help.

It would be a long time until his dad got home, and his mom was busy with his baby brother, so the boy decided he would tackle this model all by himself.

MUSIC: A dragnet theme or something that spells out “danger.”

After all, he had the picture on the front of the box. He would just jumble up the pieces of the model until they looked like the picture on the front. He set up the picture, pulled out some model pieces and began gluing them together.

Michael continues to build, but he tones his actions way down so as not to conflict or steal focus from Emily who is baking her cake.

If you have lighting capabilities, mute the light on Michael and bring Emily’s light up during her sequence.

In the same town, on the same street, at the same time, there lived a little girl.

MUSIC: Change the music to reflect a little girl baking; select something light and fun.

Her favorite day of the week was baking day. She loved the smell of cookies baking, and cakes cooling on the kitchen counter.

Emily acts out the sequence as it is described.

She was just learning to read, and so one day she decided to surprise her mom and dad and make a cake from a recipe all by herself. She climbed up on a chair and took the recipe book down off the shelf.

She turned to the part that had the recipe for apple crunch cake, and began to read:

Beat three eggs. Beat three eggs? How do you beat three eggs?

She knew what it meant to beat a rug. And she knew what it meant to beat someone at checkers; but, “How do you beat an egg?” she wondered.

She looks a bit puzzled and reaches for the eggs.

Finally, she decided that the crunch part of apple crunch cake must come from the egg shells, so she threw three eggs into the bowl and beat them up until the egg shells were nice and crunchy.

Emily crunches up the shells and throws them into the batter.

Three cups of flower. Of course, that part was easy. They had lots of flowers right outside the house, and it would not be hard to fill up three cups with flowers, so the little girl ran out and picked some.

She goes outside to gather the flowers.

It did not take her very long until she had three cups full of flowers.

She poured them into the bowl, and mixed them into the crunchy eggs.

“Hummm,” she thought to herself. “This cake batter does not look much like the cake batter Mom makes.” In fact, she had made quite a mess.

Emily looks a bit disgusted.

There were twigs and egg shells all over the kitchen. Just at that moment, her Mom came in.

The Story Lady play the part of Mom. She and Emily have a “focal point” over the heads of the audience. Their eyes meet there and communicate “Reader’s Theater” style.

“What have you done?” the little girl’s mother asked.

“I wanted to surprise you and make a cake,” “I can read now, so I can follow the recipe.”

Her mother looked around at the mess in the kitchen and at the flower petals in the bowl and shook her head. “Are you mad at me?” the little girl asked.

“No, I’m not mad at you,” her mother said as she dumped the eggs and shells and flower petals down the garbage disposal.

Emily helps her mother clean up the mess.

“I just wish you had asked me for help.”

“I can read, now. I don’t need help anymore.”

“Oh yes you do!” Her Mom answered. “Just because you can read, does not mean that you understand what you are reading. You should always ask for help when you’re just learning how to do something.

Emily stares intently at Mom during this important message.

Remember, smart people get smart by asking smart people how to do smart things.”

“I want to be smart, Mommy,” the little girl sighed. Her Mommy took her little daughter in her arms and said, “I’ll teach you how to follow the directions. Let’s work together. That’s how you learn things by working together with people who have done it before. Come on, let’s start with learning the difference between baking flour and a growing flower.”

Meanwhile, the little boy had made quite a mess of his model.

The light goes down on Emily and comes up full on Michael.

It did not look anything like the picture on the front of the box, and he was all out of pieces and all out of glue! Now what was he going to do?

MUSIC: The music changes as the attention switches to Michael; perhaps the original Star Trek-type music continues.

He should have read the directions, but he didn't think he needed them; besides the print was too small, and there weren't very many pictures. Now it was too late! He'd made a mess of his project because he didn't follow the directions. That wasn't very smart. Then he remembered what his dad once told him. "Smart people get smart by asking smart people how to do smart things."

Obvious moment of revelation reaction.

The next day was Sunday. The little boy and the little girl hurried off to church because it was a very special day.

MUSIC: "Jesus Loves Me"

This was the day they would be baptized. They had learned all about asking Jesus into their hearts, and they were ready to become Christians.

Being baptized was very exciting.

They act out this baptism sequence.

They got to wear the long, white robes and go down into the water. When they came out, they each got a present. A Bible. This was the word of God! The little girl's Bible even had her name on it.

Being a Christian was very serious. They both knew that. They wanted to be good Christians; but how were they going to find out how to do that? Then the pastor whispered something very important to them.

They lean in the same direction to indicate that they are listening to the pastor.

“Read your Bible. It is God’s book of directions for your whole life.”

The boy opened his Bible, but then he got nervous because it had really small print and there weren’t very many pictures.

Michael reacts to the tiny print and is sad about the lack of pictures.

The little girl was only just learning to read, and she needed lots of help.

Then they both remembered that, “smart people get smart by asking smart people how to do smart things.”

They exchange knowing glances remembering the model and the cake.

So they decided to follow this book of directions with the help of people who had been following them for a long time; after all, it was more important than a model, and more complicated than baking a cake!

MUSIC: All three exit to a triumphant hymn like, “Onward Christian Soldiers.”

The End