



*Written by
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“Why Do Things Go Wrong?”

Scripture: John 16: 33

“I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But, take heart! I have overcome the world.”

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: “Free will” allows for evil in the world.

Performance Time: 10 minutes

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

Objective:

To help people realize that our “free will” causes much of our pain, and God is not to blame for our troubles.

Synopsis:

Michael and Emily have had a very bad day. It begins with no prize in the cereal, and then it escalates to bullies at school and one “unfair” event after another. The Story Lady assures them that none of these things are God’s idea. He is very sad, too, at the choices people make; but, because they have free will, people make themselves miserable all the time. If we will surrender our will to God, the world would be a much happier place. She soothes the children by reminding them that we have “peace” in Jesus, and our faith in Him “overcomes” the evils of this world. After all, in Heaven we won’t have any of these problems.

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

Hello boys and girls of all ages. I am the story lady, and my friends and I have a story for you. It's about the rain...but not the kind that gets you wet. This is a different kind of rain all together! Let's see if you have ever felt this kind of rain.

MUSIC: "Singing In The Rain" or "Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head"

Once upon a time, there was a boy who had a little sister.

The children appear from behind their desks.

They both loved their cereal, and every morning they would rush down stairs and pour their cereal into the bowl and hope that the prize would fall out because they had a rule: Whoever poured the prize into their bowl got to keep it!

The children eagerly pour their cereal into the bowl.

Well, one day, they poured and poured and poured their cereal out until there was no more cereal in the box, and there was no prize at all! The cereal makers had forgotten to put the prize in.

Both children looked amazed!

"How come our box had to be the box without the prize?" the little girl cried.

"That's not fair!" the boy shouted.

Of course, their mother tried to make them feel better because mothers are usually very good at that sort of thing, but she really didn't know what to say.

Finally, she took both her children in her arms and said, "Sometimes life just isn't fair. Sad things happen, and well...those things just make us sad."

MUSIC: “I Believe” or “You Never Walk Alone”

Then she remembered a scripture verse in her Bible and she read it to her children.

“Look, Jesus said that, ‘God sends the rain to fall on the good people as well as the bad people.’”

“What does that mean?” the boy asked.

“Is it going to rain today, Mommy?” the little girl wondered.

“Well, it means that...” Just then, the school bus honked at the corner, and both children hurried off to school.

SOUND: Sound of a bus honking

MUSIC: General Background music

“Bye, have a good day.”

“We will,” they both shouted.

Emily runs back in to her Mom

“It doesn’t look like it’s going to rain,” the little girl called as she disappeared around the corner and jumped onto the bus.

But once they got to school, their day really took a turn for the worse!

MUSIC: “Dragnet” theme

It was spelling test day, and the boy had studied really hard!

He was writing his words out when he noticed that the boy right next to him was looking at his paper. He tried to cover his paper, but it was too late.

The teacher came storming down the aisle, and took both papers.

“You are both going to flunk this spelling test,” she said. “I will not allow cheating in my classroom! Both of you will have to say after school.”

“I wasn’t cheating!” The boy cried out.

“He was looking at my paper; I wasn’t looking at his.”

But, all the teacher could see was that both papers had the same errors, and she wrote a big fat “F” by both names in her grade book!

“That’s not fair! The boy complained as he slumped down in his chair.

MUSIC: Change music to a different theme

Meanwhile, the little girl couldn't wait for school to be over because this was the day she got walk to her best friend's house and spend the afternoon.

Emily walks in front of her chair.

When school was out, she raced to meet her friend, and they began to walk home. They had a wonderful time walking. They smelled the flowers,

She picks up the flowers and smells them.

...and danced with the wind.

She dances

They followed a blue butterfly, and were careful to step over the fuzzy caterpillar on the sidewalk.

She reacts to the butterfly

Then it happened.

MUSIC: Change music to a different theme

Right out of the clear blue sky came the dirt clods.

Yes, you heard me right. Dirt clods came from the sky. The girls had to run for cover, but before they could get to safety, the little girl had a terrible bump on her head from an especially big dirt cold.

The girls peeked out from under the bushes where they were hiding, and saw three boys sitting up in a tree with a whole bag of dirt clods.

Emily hides behind her chair.

“You can't walk on this sidewalk the boys shouted. This sidewalk is only for boys!

Girls keep off!”

“That's not fair!” the girls shouted.

Emily peeks out from behind her chair.

“You can’t own a sidewalk!” “You can if you’re bigger, and you’ve got dirt clods,” the boys shouted right back!

The girls knew they couldn’t win in a battle with these boys because they were much older and they were armed, so the little girls turned around and had to walk an extra six blocks to get home.

Emily runs behind her chair.

That night at dinner, the little girl and the little boy weren’t in very good moods.

Emily and Michael sit in their chair eating.

She had a headache, and he was just plain mad.

“Why isn’t life fair?” the boy asked as he shoved his green beans under his mashed potatoes, hoping that his mom would not notice.

Michael shoves his green beans under his mashed potatoes.

“Life is not fair for the same reason that you shoved those green beans under your mashed potatoes,” his mother answered.

“What”? said the boy, as he quickly began eating his green beans.

“What do my green beans have to do with being punished for cheating when I didn’t even cheat?”

“And what do green beans have to do with my headache,” cried the little girl.

And they both shouted: “Why wasn’t there a prize in the cereal!”

“Because people have free will.”

The Story Lady takes on the role of Mom and speaks to the children using a “focal point” over the heads of the audience where her eyes meet the eyes of the children.

MUSIC: General background music

“God made us that way! God wanted us to love Him because we wanted to, not because we had to.

He didn’t want a bunch of robots, because robots can’t really love, and God wants real love, not forced love.

Just like you know I want you to eat those green beans because they are good for you, but I can’t force you to eat them.

You see, those boys in the tree used their free will to make a bad choice: they chose to hurt you, and that boy in your class used his free will to cheat and get you both in trouble.

And the cereal box, well some person at the cereal-making company used free will to do a lousy job sticking prizes in cereal boxes because he really didn’t care very much about boys and girls who look forward to things like prizes in cereal.”

“I think I would have had a better day if God had just sent rain, then those boys would not have been in the trees,” the little girl answered.

Her mother smiled and said, “That’s not what that scripture means.

Jesus wasn’t talking about real rain, the kind that gets you wet.

He was talking about the bad things that happen in the world because people take God’s gift of free will and use it to disobey God’s laws and hurt other people.

When Jesus says that ‘God sends the rain to fall on the good people as well as the bad people,’ He means that bad things will happen to good people as well as bad people.

But, Jesus also said, ‘In this world, you will have troubles, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.’”

Emily and Michael look puzzled

The children looked puzzled, so their mother went on to explain,

“This is what Jesus means by that:

When bad things happen, be happy, because in Heaven, you won’t have any of these problems. Keep a song in your heart and a smile on your face even when bad things come raining down on you, because, thanks to Jesus, you are heaven-bound!”

***MUSIC:** “Singing In The Rain”*

The children grab umbrellas and begin a “soft-shoe” dance.

“I’m singing in the rain. I’m singing in the rain. What a wonderful feeling, I’m happy again.”

***MUSIC:** Change music to a different theme*

“I want to use my free will to obey God,” the boy said.

“Me too, I don’t ever want to throw dirt clods at anybody. Those boys were weird.”

“I’ll tell you a secret,” their mother whispered.

“As you grow up, many things will happen that make no sense to you because people will chose to give in to their own will instead of following God’s will.

“Just pretend that those people are aliens from some other planet. Be grateful that you cannot understand the way they think or why they do the things they, just be on the lookout for them.”

ENDING OPTION 1:

The mime players look carefully into the eyes of the audience, then stealthily exit as though they were looking for someone.

ENDING OPTION 2:

The children wear the glasses and the fedoras as the “Men in Black.” Play Music “X files” or “Men In Black”

The boy uses the photo flash to blitz the audience.”

The End