

PROJECT (OLD TESTAMENT) RUNWAY

by Jacqueline Hurley



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Project
(Old Testament)
Runway

**A Biblical fashion show
by Jacqueline Hurley**

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In order of appearance)

HOSTESS (F)

HISTORIAN (M)

BOOKWORM (M or F)

ADAM (M)

EVE (F)

NOAH (M or F, multiples optional)

JOB (M or F, multiples optional)

ABRAHAM (M or F)

JACOB (M or F)

JOSEPH (M or F)

MOSES (M or F)

DEBORAH (F)

SAMUEL (M or F)

DAVID (M or F)

ELIJAH (M or F)

ISAIAH (M or F, multiples optional)

DANIEL (M)

ESTHER (F)

PRODUCTION NOTES

Synopsis

The children host a fashion show and musical performance to recognize the importance of fifteen Old Testament figures. A Historian relates information about the Bible characters' lives and their contribution to the kingdom of God. The fashion show Hostess adds levity and develops a memorable connection when she tries to make clothing the focus of the show. Bookworm allows the audience to see where each character is described in the Bible. The Sunday school children act as runway models and recite Bible verses regarding their characters as the fashion show proceeds.

Costumes and Props

Note: A Costume Assistant should be positioned behind the screen to help the children don their costumes. The costumes should be lined up in order prior to the performance to enable the children to dress quickly. The assistant also cues the children to step out at the appropriate time.

Hostess: An older Sunday school girl who enjoys fashion, must be a capable reader. Her character has obvious taste but little interest in the intellectual. She wears dressy street clothes.

Historian: An older Sunday school boy who is also a capable reader. His character is intellectual and has little interest in fashion. He wears a suit or dressy street clothes and carries a large Bible.

Bookworm: An older boy or girl, wears a worm costume and large glasses. Character is "fussy."

Adam and Eve: Two of the youngest Sunday school children, a boy and girl, dressed in skin or fur stoles. The stoles are closed loops, draped over their chests much like banners worn by beauty contestants.

Noah: One, two, three ... of the younger Sunday school children. They wear rain slickers and carry open umbrellas. (Note: So that all children get a part, there can be a number of "Noahs." The children will walk together and recite their verse in unison.)

Job: Boy(s) or girl(s), wears a burlap feed sack(s) with holes for the head and arms cut out. (Be sure to wash the sack(s) before trying it on — very itchy if “fresh from the mill.”) Carries an “easy on, easy off” stretch belt.

Abraham: Boy or girl, wears a hiker’s sun hat, shirt, and khaki shorts and carries a large walking stick.

Jacob: Boy or girl, one who prides him/herself in athletic ability, wears a team shirt that has a large “12” written on the front and back. (For example, one of the children may own a professional football jersey, or a uniform for the team they play on would work. The shirt chosen should inspire local allegiance whenever possible.)

Joseph: Boy or girl, coat of many colors.

Moses: Boy or girl, carries a large backpack on his/her shoulders. The pack holds two Styrofoam tablets that have been carved and painted to look like the Ten Commandments.

Deborah: A girl, wears some form of military hat, a judge’s (choir) robe, and carries a gavel.

Samuel: Boy or girl, has a very long fake beard and long-haired wig, unless cast as a girl who has very long hair. He/she carries an animal-like horn “filled” with anointing oil. The horn must have a handy clip that can attach to a belt that the boy or girl wears around his/her waist. The horn, perhaps made out of papier-mâché, must be light enough that the model can carry it “hands-free” on his/her belt.

David: Boy or girl, wears a tool belt that is filled with the following items: shepherd’s crook (cane), sling, pen, plastic sword, cardboard lyre (harp), dancing shoes, running shoes.

Elijah: Boy or girl, wears a cardboard hat that depicts a huge log fire — possibly a large square shoe box with log shapes drawn all around. A hole may be cut in the top for red, yellow, and orange tissue flames to emerge. Floral corkscrew wires simulate rising smoke.

Isaiah: Boy(s) or girl(s), wears google-eyed glasses. (These funny paper or plastic glasses may be purchased from gag shops or ordered from a catalog company such as Oriental Trading Company. Multiple children may be used if additional parts are needed.)

Daniel: A boy, wears a hat or cape (or combination) that looks like a lion's ruff.

Esther: Girl, with three different pairs of large sunglasses.

Set

Arrange three microphones left, center, and Stage Right. Situate a folding screen Downstage Right in a manner that allows ample room for the child(ren) to move behind the screen, don his/her costume, and walk to Center Stage before continuing down the "runway." Plants, flowers, and other fashion show paraphernalia may be added to dress up the stage. Two lecterns or music stands may be used, one for the Historian and another for the fashion show Hostess. An oversized Bible with passages marked for easy identification, a stool, and a table are needed for Bookworm's appearance On-stage.

Music

Songs about several Old Testament heroes and the Bible are included in this play. They are: "Father Abraham," "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder," "Turn! Turn! Turn!" by the Byrds, "Only a Boy Named David" (CCLI #72013), "Dare to Be a Daniel" (public domain), and "Ancient Words" by Michael W. Smith (CCLI# 5217924). "Turn! Turn! Turn!" may be sung by a solo, duet, or trio with guitar accompaniment. Other numbers may be performed by girls only, boys only, whole group, soloist, and so on as your group permits.

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1 *(A fashionable-looking young woman, the HOSTESS, enters*
 2 *from the back of the church. She has a script in hand and*
 3 *confidently makes her way to the microphone at Stage Left. The*
 4 *children follow and take their assigned seats at the front of the*
 5 *church or performance area. CHILDREN wear street clothes.)*

6 **HOSTESS:** *(With flair)* **Welcome, everybody! Today we're**
 7 **going to see some exciting new trends for the**
 8 **fashionable churchgoer. But first, a prayer.** *(The Pastor*
 9 *or a Sunday school child asks a blessing on the children and*
 10 *those in attendance, after which HOSTESS clasps hands*
 11 *together excitedly.)* **Now, on to a stylish matter that is near**
 12 **and dear to my heart: fashion! Ladies and gentlemen,**
 13 **direct your attention to our first —**

14 **HISTORIAN:** *(Walking hurriedly up the center aisle while calling*
 15 *out ...)* **Wait a minute, _____. (Insert actual name of**
 16 **HOSTESS.) We agreed to a little history before any**
 17 **models walk the runway. Are you trying to cut me out?**

18 **HOSTESS:** *(Exasperated)* **I just don't see the point.**

19 **HISTORIAN:** *(Taking his place at microphone Stage Right)* **I**
 20 **know you don't, _____. (Insert HOSTESS' real name.) I**
 21 **can't change that, but perhaps these good people would**
 22 **like a little background.** *(The HISTORIAN opens his hands,*
 23 *palms up in invitation while sweeping the congregation with*
 24 *his eyes. Turning back to HOSTESS)* **They're nodding ...**
 25 **OK, _____? (Insert HOSTESS' name.)**

26 **HOSTESS:** *(Peeved)* **Go ahead!**

27 **HISTORIAN:** **Our first models are found in the Book of**
 28 **Genesis.**

29 **BOOKWORM:** *(Hustling up the aisle from the back of the*
 30 *church/audience calling out loudly)* **Excuse me. Excuse me!**
 31 *(Joining HOSTESS at Stage Left)* **Are you in charge?**

32 **HOSTESS:** *(Arrogantly)* **Yes, I am!**

33 **BOOKWORM:** **Can I join you? The library is closed. I just**
 34 **hate Sundays! They always close the library on**
 35 **Sundays.**

36 **HOSTESS:** **This is a fashion show.** *(Eyeing BOOKWORM*
 37 *derisively)* **I can't believe you'd be interested.**

38 **HISTORIAN:** **Hold it again, _____. (Insert HOSTESS' name.)**

This is also about a book ... many books, really ... bound into one book. The Bible. (*BOOKWORM waddles over to HISTORIAN as he/she speaks. BOOKWORM's arms are bent and tight to his/her sides. Only the hands and wrists protrude from BOOKWORM's costume, and the fingertips are touching. The fingers "walk" in an excited motion as BOOKWORM walks. This is a gesture that typifies BOOKWORM throughout.*) **Here, Bookworm.** (*The HISTORIAN places a large Bible on a table in front of BOOKWORM. Note: The two share a microphone and work together throughout the show. Adjustments for height may be made by having BOOKWORM stand or sit. The HISTORIAN opens the Bible to the middle of the big book and grasping the left half says ...*) **This fashion show only concerns people of the Old Testament. That's the first half — a little more than half — of the Bible.**

BOOKWORM: (*Fawning*) **Thank you! You're simply wonderful!**

HOSTESS: (*Rolling her eyes*) **May we get started?**

HISTORIAN: **Of course. Our first models come from the first chapter of the Book of Genesis.** (*Turns the Bible pages to Genesis for BOOKWORM and points to the heading. BOOKWORM becomes immediately absorbed in the print, wiggling fingers and rocking back and forth slightly.*) **Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden. We don't exactly know where that was, nor do we know how long they lived there. We do know that on Satan's advice, they chose to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Consequently, they developed a conscience and were ashamed to be without clothes in the presence of God. God provided clothes, but they were cast out of the Garden as a result.** (*ADAM and EVE step out from the screen and begin their walk down the runway.*)

HOSTESS: **Our first models are wearing sumptuous fur (Or leather) stoles. We all know spring weather can be fickle, but fortunately, it's always in good taste to carry a stole. This classic stole will accompany anything you have in your current wardrobe.** (*After walking the length of the runway or main aisle of the church, ADAM and EVE return to*

- 1 *the stage and step up to the center microphone before reciting*
 2 *their memorized Bible verse in unison.)*
- 3 **ADAM and EVE:** (*Together*) **Genesis 1:27.** “**So God created man**
 4 **in his own image, in the image of God he created him;**
 5 **male and female he created them**” (*ESV*). (*ADAM and*
 6 *EVE return to the screen area, remove costumes, and take their*
 7 *places with the other CHILDREN while the NOAH models step*
 8 *behind the screen to prepare for their part.)*
- 9 **HISTORIAN:** (*Turning to chapter 6 of Genesis and pointing for*
 10 *BOOKWORM, who immediately starts to read*) **In chapters**
 11 **six through nine of Genesis, we learn that the people of**
 12 **the earth become so evil and violent that God decides to**
 13 **flood the earth and start over. Noah alone is righteous**
 14 **enough to save. He and his family remain on an ark**
 15 **with pairs of animals while rains flood the earth for**
 16 **forty days. It is another fifty-four days before there is**
 17 **enough dry ground for the ark to come to rest and allow**
 18 **the family to step off the boat.** (*NOAH models step out from*
 19 *the screen and begin their walk down the runway.)*
- 20 **HOSTESS:** **Sporting the latest in spring outerwear, our**
 21 **darling little model(s) is (are) ready for any flood. Rain**
 22 **slickers will fend off that water, so don’t worry, Mom(s),**
 23 **your little one(s) will stay nice and dry.** (*When the NOAH*
 24 *models have reached the end of the runway, add ...) and*
 25 **what’s a slicker without an umbrella? They are “must-**
 26 **haves” this time of year.** (*NOAH models return to the stage*
 27 *and step up to the center microphone before reciting their*
 28 *memorized Bible verse.)*
- 29 **NOAH:** (*In unison for multiples*) **Genesis 6:9.** “**Noah was a**
 30 **righteous man, blameless among the people of his time,**
 31 **and he walked faithfully with God.”** (*NOAH models return*
 32 *to the screen area, remove costumes, and take their places with*
 33 *the other CHILDREN while JOB steps behind the screen to*
 34 *prepare for his/her part.)*
- 35 **HISTORIAN:** (*Skips ahead quite a bit and turns to the book of Job,*
 36 *which is near the center of the Bible.)* **Our next figure —**
- 37 **BOOKWORM:** (*Begins to fuss.*) **Wait a minute! Wait! You’ve**
 38 **skipped all this!** (*Flipping the edge of the missed pages*) **I**

1 don't think that's right. (*Panicked*) I don't think I can
2 take that!

3 HISTORIAN: (*Soothingly*) It's OK. We'll come back to Genesis.
4 In fact, many of the people we think we know best in
5 the Old Testament are really found only in Genesis. (*To*
6 *the audience*) Job is probably the oldest figure in the
7 Bible. We know that because in chapter one, verse
8 eleven, we hear Satan talking to God. He accuses Job of
9 only loving God because God provides for him. Satan
10 says, "But stretch out your hand and strike everything
11 he has and he will surely curse you to your face." So
12 begins the test! That means Satan has not yet been cast
13 out of heaven. He is talking with God. He and the third
14 of the angels that think they are as high as God are still
15 there! That makes this the oldest book. (*To HOSTESS*)
16 The good news is Job passes the test despite many
17 trials. The book of Job is placed alongside other
18 "wisdom books" like Proverbs, Psalms, and
19 Ecclesiastes. (*To BOOKWORM*) We'll get back to Genesis
20 next time. (*JOB steps out from the screen and begins his/her*
21 *walk down the runway.*)

22 HOSTESS: Oh, whatever! (*Big grin to the audience*) This year,
23 it's so important to make our fashion focus on
24 recycling! I hated recycling until it became fashionable.
25 Didn't you? But now we're all on board. Wearing
26 sackcloth, we have our up-to-date "Job." (*At the end of the*
27 *runway*) Notice that this recycled sackcloth is belted.
28 With or without (*JOB unfastens the belt, holds it in two*
29 *hands above his/her head, and replaces it*) a belt, this
30 sackcloth garment is definitely "in." (*JOB returns to the*
31 *stage and steps up to the center microphone before reciting*
32 *his/her memorized Bible verse.*)

33 JOB: Job 1:21. "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away;
34 may the name of the Lord be praised." (*JOB returns to the*
35 *screen area, removes costume, and takes his/her place with the*
36 *other CHILDREN while ABRAHAM steps behind the screen to*
37 *prepare for his/her part.*)

38 HISTORIAN: (*Turning to chapter 12 of Genesis and pointing for*

1 *BOOKWORM, who immediately starts to read*) In Genesis 12-
 2 15, we learn God told Abraham to leave Ur and settle in
 3 a new land. Ur was in the land now called Iraq on the
 4 lower Euphrates River. He traveled to the land we now
 5 call Israel to begin his family. His wife, Sarah, and her
 6 handmaiden, Hagar, gave birth to Isaac and Ishmael.
 7 They were the children who would begin the Jewish
 8 and Arab tribes of the Middle East. Therefore, Abraham
 9 is called “father of us all.”

10 **HOSTESS:** (*Beginning to look interested*) Is that how it goes?
 11 (*Pausing thoughtfully and then shaking her head as if to “snap*
 12 *out of it”*) **Right, fashion!** (*Big smile as ABRAHAM begins*
 13 *his/her walk down the runway*) **Care for a hike, anyone?**
 14 **When out of doors,** (*Wagging finger*) **we must protect our**
 15 **skin if we want to maintain that youthful look. Wearing**
 16 **this actual hat and actual sunblock shirt worn by actual**
 17 **archeologists, we can do just that. Notice the handsome**
 18 **walking stick. It actually comes from a living tree.** (*After*
 19 *walking the length of the runway or main aisle of the church,*
 20 *ABRAHAM returns to the stage and steps up to the center*
 21 *microphone before reciting his/her memorized Bible verse.*)

22 **ABRAHAM:** Genesis 22:18. “**And through your offspring all**
 23 **nations on earth will be blessed, because you have**
 24 **obeyed me.”** (*After ABRAHAM returns to the stage and*
 25 *speaks his/her verse, the other children join her/him to sing.*)

26 **SONG:** “**Father Abraham**” (*ABRAHAM goes behind the screen at*
 27 *the end of the song to remove his/her costume while the other*
 28 *CHILDREN return to their places and the performance*
 29 *resumes with JACOB preparing to walk the runway.*)

30 **HISTORIAN:** (*Turning to Genesis 25*) **In chapters 25-35 of**
 31 **Genesis —**

32 **BOOKWORM:** (*Tapping fingers*) **We can move on ...**

33 **HISTORIAN:** I told you, a lot of what we know about the Old
 34 Testament really just happens in the summary
 35 provided in the Book of Genesis.

36 **BOOKWORM:** OK.

37 **HISTORIAN:** Genesis chapters 25-35 tells of Jacob. He is the
 38 son of Isaac, and a twin born second. Jacob becomes the

1 father of twelve sons who become the leaders of the
 2 twelve tribes of Israel. It is not easy. First, he must trick
 3 his older twin brother into giving up his birthright.
 4 Then, he works seven years to marry Rachel, only to be
 5 tricked by his new father-in-law into marrying her
 6 older sister, Leah. He has to work another seven years
 7 for Rachel. He has to trick his father-in-law into giving
 8 up a promised herd of goats before he can strike out on
 9 his own. One night while alone on a riverbank, a
 10 mystery man appears and tries to overtake him. They
 11 wrestle all night, but Jacob does not give up. In the end,
 12 he wins the match and insists on having the man's
 13 blessing. The man turns out to be God, and Jacob is
 14 indeed blessed for his perseverance. He becomes the
 15 father of the twelve tribes of Israel. (*JACOB steps out*
 16 *from the screen and begins his/her walk down the runway.*)

17 **HOSTESS:** (*Agape*) Wow, I didn't know that. Sports fans, isn't
 18 number 12 just the best? Wearing our favorite number
 19 12, we have one of our very own athletes, _____ !
 20 (*Insert name of Sunday school child in this costume. After*
 21 *walking the length of the runway or main aisle of the church,*
 22 *JACOB return to the stage and steps up to the center*
 23 *microphone before reciting his/her memorized Bible verse.*)

24 **JACOB:** Genesis 32:28. "Your name will no longer be Jacob,
 25 but Israel, because you have struggled with God and
 26 with humans and have overcome."

27 **HISTORIAN:** Before Jacob met Rachel and Leah, he had a
 28 famous dream at Bethel. He dreamt he saw a staircase
 29 leading to heaven. Angels were going and coming on
 30 this ladder, and he saw God in his heaven. God
 31 promised Jacob that the land he was sleeping on would
 32 become his, and he would become the father of the
 33 tribes of Israel. His descendants would spread out
 34 north, south, east, and west, and this is why we sing "We
 35 Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder." Our very own _____
 36 (*Director's choice*) will perform it. (*JACOB joins the*
 37 *designated CHILDREN to sing.*)
 38

SONG: “We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder”

(Duet, trio, boys only, or whole group. After the song, JACOB returns to the screen area, removes costume, and takes his/her place with the other CHILDREN while JOSEPH steps behind the screen to prepare for his/her part.)

HISTORIAN: There are a number of Josephs in the Bible, but this one is in Genesis. Joseph’s brothers were jealous of him. He was a dreamer, braggart, and a favorite of Jacob and Rachel because he was born in their old age. Rather than killing him when he brags of his beautiful new coat, his brothers sell him as a slave to travelers on their way to Egypt. He does well in Egypt and rises to power, just as he boasted he would. When a terrible drought overtakes Israel, his brothers and father all face starvation. Their families travel to Egypt and survive because of Joseph’s forgiveness and mercy. There is so much more to this story, but let me end with this idea. That’s why generations later, Moses and his people are living in Egypt when it comes time for the Exodus. *(JOSEPH steps out from behind the screen and begins his/her walk down the runway.)*

HOSTESS: I get it! Wearing his *(or her)* coat of many colors, our Joseph *(Josephine)* can walk proudly and with the confidence of someone who shows mercy, is able to forgive, and can put up a fight when necessary. *(After walking the length of the runway or main aisle of the church, JOSEPH returns to the stage and steps up to the center microphone before reciting his/her memorized Bible verse.)*

JOSEPH: Genesis 37:19-20. “Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him...” *(ESV). (JOSEPH returns to the screen area, removes costume, and takes his/her place with the other CHILDREN while MOSES steps behind the screen to prepare for his/her part.)*

HISTORIAN: *(Turning to Exodus for BOOKWORM)* On to the second book of the Bible, Exodus.

BOOKWORM: Finally!

HISTORIAN: Most of us are familiar with Moses. He led his

people out of Egypt after five hundred years of slavery. He was the adopted baby of the Pharaoh's daughter who rose to power and received the Ten Commandments from God. He is also the one who was responsible for writing the oral history of Genesis, then the history of Exodus, and finally the Hebrew law books of Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. (*MOSES steps out from the screen and begins his/her walk down the runway.*)

HOSTESS: Tired of carrying those heavy tablets to Hebrew School? (*Winking at HISTORIAN and including the congregation in the joke.*) I'm beginning to like this Jewish history. (*Back to a serious tone*) Why not carry your tablets in this fabulous book bag? This bag promises to distribute the weight equally on both shoulders. (*After walking the length of the runway or main aisle of the church, MOSES returns to the stage and steps up to the center microphone before reciting his/her memorized Bible verse.*)

MOSES: Exodus 8:20. "This is what the Lord says: 'Let my people go, so that they may worship me.'" (*MOSES returns to the screen area, removes his/her costume, and takes his/her place with the other CHILDREN while DEBORAH steps behind the screen to prepare for her part.*)

HISTORIAN: (*Flips to Judges for BOOKWORM.*) After wandering in the desert for forty years, Joshua, not Moses, leads the Jewish people into the Promised Land. For a time, twelve judges rule Israel. Gideon, Samson, and Deborah are three of the most famous. During Deborah's time as judge, the Canaanites press in. Deborah commands Barak to do battle, but he will not attack without Deborah by his side. They take the battle but Sisera, the Canaanite's general, escapes. Later, he is killed by a soldier's wife. Without the women, the outcome of this fight would have been very different. (*DEBORAH steps out from the screen and begins her walk down the runway.*)

HOSTESS: Go, girls! While the military look is always in fashion, our inventive model has combined a judge's robe and military hat into one stunning look. (*After*

1 *walking the length of the runway or main aisle of the church,*
 2 *DEBORAH returns to the stage and steps up to the center*
 3 *microphone before reciting her memorized Bible verse.)*

4 **DEBORAH:** Judges 4:14. “Then Deborah said to Barak, ‘Go!
 5 This is the day the Lord has given Sisera into your
 6 hands.’” (*DEBORAH returns to the screen area, removes*
 7 *costume, and takes her place with the other CHILDREN while*
 8 *SAMUEL steps behind the screen to prepare for his/her part.)*

9 **HISTORIAN:** (*Turning to 1 Samuel for BOOKWORM*) The story
 10 of Samuel is told in 1 Samuel. He was the last of the
 11 judges and the first of the prophets. He anoints Saul as
 12 Israel’s first king. When Saul sins by accepting foreign
 13 gods and not carrying out all of God’s instructions in a
 14 battle against the Amalekites, God directs Samuel to
 15 anoint David as the next king. Saul is sorry for his
 16 mistakes and offers a sacrifice. Samuel is also sorry, for
 17 he loves Saul, but he responds with, “To obey is better
 18 than sacrifice” and anoints David as he is told.
 19 (*SAMUEL steps out from the screen and begins his/her walk*
 20 *down the runway.)*

21 **HOSTESS:** (*Reading, looking a little confused*) My script says
 22 temple priests were never allowed to cut their hair as a
 23 sign of allegiance to God. (*Looking at the model and*
 24 *wagging a finger*) Samuel, may I recommend you use a
 25 little of your anointing oil to detangle? A dip on the
 26 comb each morning can make all the difference. (*To the*
 27 *audience*) Everyone, notice Samuel carries his anointing
 28 oil in a horn on his belt. Belts are very big this year and
 29 handy when you meet up with a king. Let’s say you go
 30 to the prom. You bump into the Prom King. Your horn
 31 of anointing oil is right there, attached to your belt. No
 32 need to go back to the car or cloak room to find it.

33 **BOOKWORM:** (*To the audience and HISTORIAN*) Is she for real?
 34 (*After walking the length of the runway or main aisle of the*
 35 *church, SAMUEL returns to the stage and steps up to the center*
 36 *microphone before reciting his/her memorized Bible verse.)*

37 **SAMUEL:** 1 Samuel 15:22. “To obey is better than sacrifice.”
 38 (*SAMUEL returns to the screen area, removes costume, and*

1 *takes his place with the other CHILDREN while DAVID steps*
 2 *behind the screen to prepare for his/her part.)*

3 **HISTORIAN:** Much of the Old Testament concerns King
 4 David. We know he wrote many of the Psalms placed
 5 right after the book of Job. *(Flips to those pages for*
 6 *BOOKWORM.)* We also know there is a historical
 7 account of his activities in chapters 10-29 of 1
 8 Chronicles, *(Flips to those pages)* but his activities are
 9 best described in 1 Samuel. I'm going to turn it over to
 10 our fashion show hostess and let her, along with David's
 11 tool belt, do the telling. *(DAVID enters. He/she does not*
 12 *walk the runway like the other models. He/she stands beside*
 13 *the HOSTESS and removes and shows his/her props as each*
 14 *one is described.)*

15 **HOSTESS:** Thank you, Historian. I won't let you down.
 16 *(DAVID displays the shepherd's crook.)* First, we see a
 17 shepherd's crook. David was a young shepherd of
 18 Bethlehem. *(DAVID displays the sling.)* Then we see a
 19 sling. David brought down the mighty Goliath of the
 20 Philistines with this simple weapon. *(DAVID displays the*
 21 *harp.)* Next, we have a harp. David was a favorite of Saul
 22 before Saul lost his place as king. He would soothe Saul
 23 with his beautiful music. *(DAVID displays the pen.)* A pen
 24 reminds us he was the author of many songs and poems
 25 praising God and calling on him in time of need. *(DAVID*
 26 *displays the dancing shoes.)* Dancing shoes are a symbol of
 27 the times David danced with joy before the Lord. *(To the*
 28 *HISTORIAN)* It says here that his wife, Michal, accused
 29 him of making a fool of himself when he danced. It just
 30 wasn't fitting for a king. Is that true? *(The HISTORIAN*
 31 *nods.)* Hmmmm. *(DAVID displays the sword.)* David is
 32 carrying a sword. He fought many battles as the second
 33 king of Israel and enlarged the people's territory.
 34 *(DAVID displays the running shoes.)* Running shoes show
 35 us that before Saul died, he frequently had to run from
 36 his former friend and king because Saul wanted to kill
 37 him. In the end, David never lost favor with God
 38 because he always trusted and worshiped him, even if

1 **he made many human mistakes.** (*DAVID says his/her*
 2 *memorized verse into the HOSTESS microphone.*)

3 **DAVID: Psalm 23:1. “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not**
 4 **want.”**

5
 6 **SONG: “Only a Boy Named David”**

7 (*The other CHILDREN join DAVID to sing. After the song,*
 8 *DAVID returns to the screen area, removes costume, and takes*
 9 *his/her place with the other CHILDREN while ELIJAH steps*
 10 *behind the screen to prepare for his/her part.*)

11
 12 **HISTORIAN: Solomon, David’s son, was the next king of**
 13 **Israel. His story is told in 1 Kings** (*Pause — BOOKWORM*
 14 *flips through the references on his/her own in this part. He/she*
 15 *appears very busy and very satisfied when she/he discovers*
 16 *each reference.*) **and 2 Chronicles.** (*Pause*) **He built a**
 17 **beautiful temple in Jerusalem and was a mighty**
 18 **warrior who enlarged Israel’s territory. He was known**
 19 **for his wisdom and wrote many of the wise sayings in**
 20 **the Book of Proverbs.** (*BOOKWORM locates Proverbs.*) **It is**
 21 **also possible he wrote the Book of Ecclesiastes and**
 22 **Song of Songs. A famous song comes from Ecclesiastes.**

23
 24 **OPTIONAL SONG: “Turn! Turn! Turn!” by the Byrds.**
 25 (*Solo or duet with guitar accompaniment*)

26
 27 **HISTORIAN: Solomon was wise at first — but in time, he**
 28 **took many wives and allowed them to invite foreign**
 29 **gods and idols into Israel. This displeased God, and he**
 30 **said Solomon’s sons would not enjoy the peace and**
 31 **prosperity he had. In fact, after Solomon, the country**
 32 **was divided in two. The North was still called Israel,**
 33 **but the South became Judah.**

34 **BOOKWORM: Listen to this: Proverbs 1: 8-9. “Listen, my son,**
 35 **to your father’s instruction and do not forsake your**
 36 **mother’s teaching. They will be a garland to grace your**
 37 **head and a chain to adorn your neck.”**

38 **HISTORIAN: Eight to nine hundred years before the time of**

Christ, a great prophet known as Elijah lived in the northern kingdom of Israel. Under King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, he warned of the dangers of worshiping false gods and goddesses such as Baal and Asherah. A contest was proposed. A stack of wood was piled high and Jezebel's gods were called on to light the fire. After eight hundred fifty prophets spent the whole day in dance and prayer to those gods, the fire remained unlit. You can read more about it in 1 Kings. (*BOOKWORM locates the place.*) When Elijah's God is called, the fire rages. You'd think that would convict Jezebel to the truth of God. Instead, she determines to kill Elijah. A terrible storm, earthquake, and fire surround Elijah in his mountain hiding place, and he calls out to his God. (*HOSTESS does not speak here. She merely listens in rapt attention. ELIJAH steps forward in his/her flaming hat, but does not walk. He/she stands at the center microphone and recites his/her Bible verse.*)

ELIJAH: 1 Kings 19:11-12. "Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper." (*ELIJAH returns to the screen area, removes costume, and takes his/her places with the other CHILDREN while ISAIAH steps behind the screen to prepare for his/her part.*)

HOSTESS: I've heard of that! The still, small voice of God ... calling.

HISTORIAN: Right, _____. (*Insert HOSTESS name.*) Now we'll move on to Isaiah. (*BOOKWORM turns to Isaiah.*) Another great prophet lived in Judah about seven hundred years before Christ. He predicted many things, including the fall of Jerusalem to Babylon — almost as if he could see right into the future. (*ISAIAH appears in google-eyed glasses and walks down the runway. As though he/she is looking into minds and thoughts, he/she peers left*

1 *and right into the eyes of the congregation to provoke a*
 2 *humorous response as the HISTORIAN continues.)*

3 **HISTORIAN:** In 2 Kings and the Book of Isaiah, (*BOOKWORM*
 4 *finds references*) we learn he predicted captives would be
 5 taken to Babylon. Babylon was a kingdom and a city ...
 6 our current city of Baghdad. He predicted the Persians
 7 would overcome the Babylonians and the Jews would
 8 be allowed to return home. He even predicted the
 9 coming of Jesus. All of that has happened just as he
 10 said. (*After walking the length of the runway or main aisle of*
 11 *the church, ISAAH returns to the stage and steps up to the*
 12 *center microphone before reciting his/her memorized Bible*
 13 *verse.)*

14 **ISAAH:** A prophecy about the Messiah from Isaiah 53:5. “But
 15 he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed
 16 for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us
 17 peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”
 18 (*ISAAH returns to the screen area, removes his/her costume,*
 19 *and takes his/her place with the other CHILDREN while*
 20 *DANIEL steps behind the screen to prepare for his part.)*

21 **HOSTESS:** I know this next one. It’s about Daniel and the
 22 lions! It’s like *Gladiator* ... (*Excitedly*) Christians are
 23 being thrown to the lions ...

24 **HISTORIAN:** That happened, _____, (*Insert HOSTESS name*)
 25 but not in the Old Testament. You see, Daniel was one
 26 of the captives taken to Babylon. He, too, was a major
 27 prophet. So, when King Nebuchadnezzar and the
 28 following kings of Babylon and conquering Persia were
 29 fearful about the future, they called on Daniel to
 30 interpret their dreams and speak prophecy. King
 31 Darius of Persia had other prophets that hated Daniel’s
 32 success, so they set a trap. They convinced Darius to
 33 pass a law saying everyone had to pray only to Darius
 34 for thirty days or be thrown to the lions. When King
 35 Darius learned of the trap, it was too late to take back
 36 his own edict. Daniel, who would only worship God, was
 37 thrown to the lions, but God closed their mouths.
 38 Daniel lived. The jealous tricksters weren’t so lucky.



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