

PAIRABLES

by Brett Hadley



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Pairables

**A collection of sketches
on Jesus' parables**

- 1. The Illustrated Lost Sheep**
- 2. Loose Change**
- 3. The Prodigal in Freek**
- 4. The Illustrated Samaritan**
- 5. The Universal Fruit Factory**

by Brett Hadley

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INTRODUCTION

“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me” (John 12:32, KJV). These solemn words were spoken by Jesus as he looked ahead to his death. But this passage isn’t just a prophecy of the Crucifixion, it’s a promise. A promise that whenever we lift Jesus up in our lives, others will be drawn to him through us. This has been the focus of our drama ministry since we began in 1992.

There is nothing more powerful than the art of storytelling. Almost everyone in the world loves to hear or see a good story. And the best stories are the ones that capture your imagination again and again. Jesus knew this, and that’s why he taught in parables. He knew the images in those simple stories would last a lifetime in the minds and hearts of those who heard them. That is the power of Christian drama.

This collection contains five of the original scripts performed by our drama team. We have taken these scripts from some of our full-length touring shows and organized them so you can use them as single, stand-alone pieces or as a complete production. Their common theme is that they are all parables. They feature a contrasting pair — a “straight guy” and a “goof” — who play off each other. The first four scripts are lighthearted retellings of parables Jesus told. The last script is a modern parable based on the central theme of salvation, that Christ died for us.

With each script, you will find a short “Worship Thought” to wrap up the sketch. Right at the end of a good story there is a pause in time where the eyes, ears, and hearts of the listener are tuned in. In that moment, there is an opportunity to really drive home the message of your drama. The Worship Thoughts are designed to do just that — use the moment to strike the hammer’s last blow to nail your message to the audience’s heart.

It is our hope that these scripts will serve you well in your drama ministry, and our prayer that you will be instruments in God’s hands for Christian drama.

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1. THE ILLUSTRATED LOST SHEEP

THEME TEXT

Luke 15:1-7, the Parable of the Lost Sheep.

FOCUS

This is a lighthearted retelling of the Parable of the Lost Sheep. Those of us who are represented by the lost sheep have wandered away from God without really knowing it and are unable to find our way back. Our only hope is that God himself comes to search for us and, when we allow him to find us, he does not push, pull, or drive us, but picks us up and carries us home.

CAST

Actor 1: The straight player (Should be a female)

Actor 2: The “goof” (Should be a male)

PROPS

Sheep ears (Check costume shops or make your own from a headband with cotton-ball-covered felt ears attached) and a shepherd’s crook.

WORSHIP THOUGHT

In the first of these parable stories, Jesus begins with comparing the human race to an animal. Not just any animal, mind you, but sheep — the dumbest of all animals. Sheep are crowd followers and are so clueless that if a flock is left without a leader, like a sheepdog, and one of them accidentally wanders over a cliff, the rest of the flock will follow ... and this is the animal Jesus says you and I are most like. Did he have the human race figured out or what?!

In this parable, Jesus covers all of us who have wandered away from God but didn’t really mean to. We didn’t wake up one morning and decide, “I think I’ll run away from God now. I’m tired of being a Christian.” We really didn’t make a determined and

willful choice to leave “the flock.” But, little by little, by thinking there might be something we are missing out on or looking to things or places that we deem “greener pastures,” we nibble our way into a spiritual wilderness. At that point, Jesus tells us in this story, we cannot find our way back.

But here is the amazing part. Jesus leaves the ninety-nine others for the lost one: you. If throughout all of time the only person who would ever respond to God’s love was you, Jesus still would have come. And, when he finds you, he doesn’t scold or punish or expect you to do penance to show how sorry you are for wandering away. He picks you up with strong and loving arms and carries you home.

(ACTOR 1 and ACTOR 2 are at Center Stage.)

ACTOR 1: One day Jesus sat on a hillside, surrounded by lots of people.

ACTOR 2: He was a very popular fellow!

ACTOR 1: Now, the Pharisees were not pleased with Jesus.

ACTOR 2: So what else is new?

ACTOR 1: For they said that he always hung out with sinners.

ACTOR 2: Which is who Jesus liked to have around him anyway.

ACTOR 1: For he didn’t come to the world for the “saved and righteous.”

ACTOR 2: Or those who think they are.

ACTOR 1: But to find the lost.

ACTOR 2: That’s right.

ACTOR 1: For the well do not need a hospital.

ACTOR 2: No, sir!

ACTOR 1: Only the sick.

ACTOR 2: And there sure are a lot of sick people in this crowd!

ACTOR 1: *(Rolls eyes.)* So he told them stories.

ACTOR 2: Parables.

- 1 **ACTOR 1:** Allegories, if you will.
- 2 **ACTOR 2:** Personifications of divine situations.
- 3 **ACTOR 1:** So the people could plainly see.
- 4 **ACTOR 2:** And of those stories, none are more powerful —
- 5 **ACTOR 1:** More personal —
- 6 **ACTOR 2:** More poignant —
- 7 **ACTOR 1:** Than the parables involving a lost sheep,
- 8 **ACTOR 2:** A lost coin,
- 9 **ACTOR 1:** And a lost son.
- 10 **ACTOR 2:** Or, as we like to call them,
- 11 **ACTOR 1:** The Trilogy for the Lost.
- 12 **ACTOR 2:** And the first of these astute stories is the Parable
- 13 of the Lost Sheep.
- 14 **ACTOR 1:** Once upon a time, there was a shepherd. (*Takes*
- 15 *the shepherd's crook in hand.*)
- 16 **ACTOR 2:** I'm not liking where this is headed.
- 17 **ACTOR 1:** Who owned a lot of sheep. (*Hands sheep ears to*
- 18 *ACTOR 2.*)
- 19 **ACTOR 2:** I knew it! How come I'm always the livestock?
- 20 **ACTOR 1:** Someone has to be the dumb animal.
- 21 **ACTOR 2:** As long as this isn't typecasting.
- 22 **ACTOR 1:** And the shepherd took great care of his sheep,
- 23 taking them to only the greenest of pastures with the
- 24 coolest and clearest water.
- 25 **ACTOR 2:** Ahhh, this is the life.
- 26 **ACTOR 1:** And all of his sheep were very happy.
- 27 **ACTOR 2:** (*Sings*) "If you're happy and you know it, clap
- 28 your hooves, (*Two claps with hands held as hooves*) baa,
- 29 baa."
- 30 **ACTOR 1:** One day, a single sheep began to wander away
- 31 from the flock for no apparent reason.
- 32 **ACTOR 2:** I have flockaphobia. I need (*Can speak the words*
- 33 *or sing them a la the Dixie Chicks' song*) wide open spaces!
- 34 **ACTOR 1:** He didn't go far at first, but little by little he
- 35 wandered away, thinking he could find something

1 better just over the next hill.
2 **ACTOR 2:** (*Wandering off*) The grass sure looks greener over
3 there.
4 **ACTOR 1:** Then the sheep began thinking, “Why do I have
5 to be a sheep? Why can’t I be whatever I want to be?”
6 **ACTOR 2:** Yeah! Maybe I don’t wanna be a sheep! Maybe a
7 want to be a lion! Rowr, rowr! (*To ACTOR 1*) Rowr,
8 rowr!
9 **ACTOR 1:** Now everyone knows sheep are the dumbest of
10 all animals.
11 **ACTOR 2:** Hey!
12 **ACTOR 1:** And it wasn’t long before the poor little sheep
13 wandered so far away that he was hopelessly lost.
14 **ACTOR 2:** Hey, where’d everybody go?
15 **ACTOR 1:** And he couldn’t find his way back.
16 **ACTOR 2:** (*Sadly*) I’m a poor little sheep who has lost my
17 way. Baa, baa, baa.
18 **ACTOR 1:** Meanwhile, back on the ranch, the good
19 shepherd counted each one of his sheep and called
20 them by name.
21 **ACTOR 2:** Now Dasher, now Dancer, now Prancer and
22 Vixen! On Comet, on Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen! To
23 the top of the porch, to the top of the wall, now dash
24 away, dash away, dash away all!
25 **ACTOR 1:** That’s another story! You’re a sheep, not a
26 reindeer!
27 **ACTOR 2:** Sorry.
28 **ACTOR 1:** As the good shepherd was counting his sheep, he
29 discovered one was missing.
30 **ACTOR 2:** But it’s my own fault for getting lost. I ran away.
31 Surely he won’t bother with a “baaad” sheep like me.
32 **ACTOR 1:** Knowing that the lost sheep could not find his
33 way home on his own, he put his own life at risk and
34 set out in the dark of night to find his lost little lamb.
35 **ACTOR 2:** I’m in trouble now.

1 **ACTOR 1:** And when he finally found the lost lamb, he ran
2 to its side and then ...

3 **ACTOR 2:** Gave him what he deserved?

4 **ACTOR 1:** Not exactly.

5 **ACTOR 2:** Well, he must have at least given him a good
6 scolding!

7 **ACTOR 1:** Nope. He ran to his side and gave him a big hug!

8 **ACTOR 2:** I'm sorry for the trouble I've been. I don't deserve
9 to be part of the pen. Just point out the way that leads
10 to your door, and you won't have to bother with me
11 anymore.

12 **ACTOR 1:** But the good shepherd wouldn't listen. And,
13 picking up his lost little lamb, he brought him back
14 safely to the fold.

15 **ACTOR 2:** (*Clicks heels together like Dorothy in The Wizard of*
16 *Oz.*) There's no place like home. There's no place like
17 home!

18 **ACTOR 1:** Then Jesus looked at the Pharisees,

19 **ACTOR 2:** And the Sadducees,

20 **ACTOR 1:** And all the lost sheep in the crowd, and said:

21 **ACTOR 2:** "I tell you the truth, there is more rejoicing in
22 heaven over one lost sinner who repents ...

23 **ACTOR 1:** Than the ninety and nine who think they need no
24 repentance" (Luke 15:7, author's paraphrase).

25

26

27 **2. LOOSE CHANGE**

28

29 **THEME TEXT**

30 Luke 15:8-10, the Parable of the Lost Coin.

31

32 **FOCUS**

33 This is a comic retelling of Jesus' Parable of the Lost Coin, and
34 the second in our *Trilogy for the Lost* series.

35 **CAST**

1 Actor 1: The straight player (Should be a female)

2 Actor 2: The “goof” (Should be a male)

3

4 **PROPS**

5 A handkerchief stuffed with dirt and dust, a small plastic
6 garbage can with some garbage inside, a hand-held vacuum cleaner,
7 a party hat, and a noisemaker (the kind used at children’s parties).

8

9 **WORSHIP THOUGHT**

10 In the second story of the Trilogy for the Lost, Jesus compares
11 people to a lost coin. Here Jesus talks to all of us who have ever
12 become “lost” and didn’t realize it.

13 In the story, the coin is lost inside the house. The house
14 represents the house of God, or church. You see, Jesus knew that
15 one of Satan’s ploys would be to take you out of the church or, if
16 that didn’t work, to bring you to a place where church becomes a
17 ritual instead of an experience.

18 How easy it is to fall into a rut with our Christianity when
19 we forget that church is meant to be a heart experience with God!
20 Did you know that in the Bible, the heart is addressed more than
21 any other topic? God wants our hearts. Satan wants to turn our
22 hearts into stone. And I believe he does that to some of us in a
23 way very similar to a process like calcification. That’s where, little
24 by little over a period of time, something in our body becomes
25 hardened by deposits of calcium salts. Once hardened, it becomes
26 unchangeable. This is what happens to our hearts when worship
27 becomes ritual.

28 But in the story, the woman does not give up the coin for lost,
29 even though she has nine others. She tears the house apart
30 looking for the one lost coin. It has become more valuable to her
31 because it is lost, and she will not rest until it is found. Neither
32 will God till he fulfills his promise to us in Ezekiel 11:19-20 — “I
33 will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them;
34 I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a
35 heart of flesh. Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to

1 keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God.”
 2
 3 (*Actor 1 and Actor 2 are at Center Stage.*)
 4 ACTOR 1: And it came to pass that, in the fullness of time,
 5 Jesus came to earth from heaven for change.
 6 ACTOR 2: That’s right! To change our hearts!
 7 ACTOR 1: No.
 8 ACTOR 2: Change our minds?
 9 ACTOR 1: Uh-uh.
 10 ACTOR 2: Change people?
 11 ACTOR 1: Not exactly.
 12 ACTOR 2: Well, it sure wasn’t for a change of scenery!
 13 ACTOR 1: He left heaven for loose change.
 14 ACTOR 2: Loose change?
 15 ACTOR 1: That’s right.
 16 ACTOR 2: Left heaven?
 17 ACTOR 1: Yep.
 18 ACTOR 2: For loose change?
 19 ACTOR 1: I just said that.
 20 ACTOR 2: Left pearly gates?
 21 ACTOR 1: Yes.
 22 ACTOR 2: Streets of gold?
 23 ACTOR 1: Yes.
 24 ACTOR 2: Walls of jasper, diamonds, and rubies?
 25 ACTOR 1: Uh-huh.
 26 ACTOR 2: For loose change?
 27 ACTOR 1: You got it!
 28 ACTOR 2: You lost me.
 29 ACTOR 1: Perhaps a parable to plainly explain is in order.
 30 ACTOR 2: That might help.
 31 ACTOR 1: There was a woman —
 32 ACTOR 2: Hey!
 33 ACTOR 1: Who had ten gold coins.
 34 ACTOR 2: Oh, I’m a rich woman. That’s OK.
 35 ACTOR 1: You’re not the woman, you’re the coin. *I’m* the

1 woman.

2 **ACTOR 2:** Right. Sorry.

3 **ACTOR 1:** And each of the coins was very precious to her.

4 *(Puts arm around ACTOR 2.)*

5 **ACTOR 2:** I never knew you cared so much.

6 **ACTOR 1:** For they were gifts to her from her father.

7 **ACTOR 2:** How thoughtful.

8 **ACTOR 1:** One tragic day, while the woman wasn't

9 watching, a single coin fell to the floor and was lost!

10 **ACTOR 2:** Now, how am I supposed to fall — *(ACTOR 1*

11 *sweeps ACTOR 2's legs out from under him and he falls.)*

12 **Hey! That hurt!** *(Tries to get up.)*

13 **ACTOR 1:** And lay on the floor, motionless. *(Throws hands*

14 *out to gesture and in so doing, hits ACTOR 2 on the head,*

15 *causing him to fall back down.)*

16 **ACTOR 2:** Ouch!

17 **ACTOR 1:** And helpless.

18 **ACTOR 2:** Help! I've fallen, and I can't get up!

19 **ACTOR 1:** And it wasn't long till the coin was covered with

20 dust and dirt. *(Drops the handkerchief full of dust and dirt*

21 *on ACTOR 2.)*

22 **ACTOR 2:** Hey! I'm allergic to dust mites! *(Sneezes loudly.)*

23 **ACTOR 1:** Bless you. *(Hands him the handkerchief.)*

24 **ACTOR 2:** Thanks! *(Blows his nose loudly on the handkerchief,*

25 *then hands it back to ACTOR 1.)*

26 **ACTOR 1:** No thanks. You just go ahead and keep that for

27 later.

28 **ACTOR 2:** Thanks!

29 **ACTOR 1:** And after the dirt and dust, all manner of

30 garbage fell upon the coin. *(Dumps filled garbage can on*

31 *ACTOR 2.)*

32 **ACTOR 2:** Aaaagh!

33 **ACTOR 1:** And the dirt and grime were then ground in as

34 the coin was trampled under the feet of passersby.

35 *(Begins to walk on ACTOR 2. Optional: May sing the first*

- 1 *line of "I Was Going for a Walk One Day.")*
2 **ACTOR 2: Enough! Enough already!**
3 **ACTOR 1: And so the coin was hopelessly lost.**
4 **ACTOR 2:** *(Begins sadly and increases in despair. ACTOR 1 rolls*
5 *her eyes and shakes her head, waiting impatiently for him to*
6 *finish his tirade.)* **Now I'll never be found — not with this**
7 **grime and dirt all around. Never again will I run**
8 **through the fields of daisies and roses and bright**
9 **daffodils! Oh, what a fate to be lost in this mire of**
10 **selfishness, hate, and sinful desire. I cry out in anguish,**
11 **my heart is so alone! Like Dorothy in Oz, there's no**
12 **place like home ... there's no place like home ... there's**
13 **no place like home.** *(Taps feet together.)* **Click, click, click.**
14 **ACTOR 1: Are you finished?**
15 **ACTOR 2:** *(Sniffs.)* **Yes.**
16 **ACTOR 1: Fine. Then the woman realized a coin was now**
17 **missing.**
18 **ACTOR 2: But she had all nine others; why bother with me?**
19 **ACTOR 1: But the one lost coin was more precious because**
20 **it was lost.**
21 **ACTOR 2: I must be very special.**
22 **ACTOR 1: And so the woman began searching her house**
23 **diligently.**
24 **ACTOR 2: She looked through the sofa.**
25 **ACTOR 1: And behind every chair.**
26 **ACTOR 2: Through the cracks in the walls.**
27 **ACTOR 1: But it was not there.**
28 **ACTOR 2: Hopelessly lost, everyone assumed.**
29 **ACTOR 1: Till the woman brought out her holy vacuum!**
30 *(Pulls out hand-held vacuum.)*
31 **ACTOR 2: Hey, that's not in the story!**
32 **ACTOR 1: I'm improvising — go with me here. And so the**
33 **woman sucked all the dirt and grime off the coin.**
34 *(Begins to vacuum ACTOR 2.)*
35 **ACTOR 2: Help! I'm being sanctified by suction!**

1 **ACTOR 1:** Till the coin's original beauty and luster were
2 **completely restored.** (*Helps ACTOR 2 to his feet.*)
3 **ACTOR 2:** Hey! I'm pretty good lookin'!
4 **ACTOR 1:** Don't push it!
5 **ACTOR 2:** Sorry.
6 **ACTOR 1:** Then the woman called all of her neighbors
7 **together.**
8 **ACTOR 2:** Hey, everybody, gather around! For my coin that
9 **was lost today is now found.**
10 **ACTOR 1:** And everyone rejoiced greatly in the finding of
11 **the one lost coin.** (*ACTOR 2 pulls out a party hat and*
12 *noisemaker and rejoices greatly. ACTOR 1 grabs the*
13 *noisemaker in the middle, causing ACTOR 2 to gag.*) **Now**
14 **be careful and don't miss the point of our story.**
15 **ACTOR 2:** For what we have shown is a mere allegory.
16 **ACTOR 1:** Any one of us here might be lost like the coin.
17 **ACTOR 2:** Alone in God's house and afraid to join.
18 **ACTOR 1:** And though you are battered and covered with sin,
19 **ACTOR 2:** To Christ and the Father, you're precious within.
20 **ACTOR 1:** God needs us as searchers for those who aren't
21 **found,**
22 **ACTOR 2:** And he's ready to use whoever's around.
23 **ACTOR 1:** Are you willing to be used as a tool for the
24 **searching**
25 **ACTOR 2:** For all the lost coins in this house that are
26 **hurting?**
27 **ACTOR 1:** Ready to search, to find and rejoice,
28 **ACTOR 2:** Over one lost soul who made a bad choice.
29 **ACTOR 1:** So we all are together when the last trumpet
30 **sounds,**
31 **ACTOR 2:** And Christ will proclaim, "That which was lost is
32 **now found!"**
33
34
35

3. THE PRODIGAL IN FREEK

THEME TEXT

Luke 15:1-7, the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

FOCUS

The Parable of the Lost Son, and the last in our *Trilogy for the Lost* series.

CAST

Actor 1: The straight player (Should be played by a female)

Actor 2: The “goof” (Should be played by a male)

PROPS

None.

NOTES

Some of you may recognize part of this script from “The Prodigal in F” script that has been around for years. I simply took that copyright-free script and expounded on it to make it fit with the trilogy of sketches on the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and here, the Lost Son.

At the beginning of the sketch, you have the opportunity to customize the script to include TV or movie references. We originally chose two retro family shows — *The Brady Bunch* and *The Partridge Family*, but any older or current show about a family with a catchy theme song would work. The character we chose for imitating was Homer Simpson, but any colorful character from a TV show about a family will do. The movie we selected was *Finding Nemo*, but again, any movie where something is lost and then found would work. We have used other similar TV or movie references where the actors could better imitate those characters. Whatever shows or movies you choose, I suggest you have your actors familiarize themselves with the theme songs, characters, and plots.

1 **WORSHIP THOUGHT**

2 In this sketch, Jesus talks to all of us who choose to run away
3 from him. In the first two sketches, God is shown going out to find
4 the things that are lost. In this story, he waits. I believe that is
5 because in the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin parables, becoming
6 “lost” isn’t necessarily our intention. But here, in the Lost Son, it’s
7 a defiant and willful choice to leave the father. So, since God
8 honors our free will, he waits. Waits for the consequences he
9 knows will come from choosing life apart from him.

10 The “inheritance” we take with us is made up of the gifts,
11 talents, and abilities that God has given to all of us. These are the
12 things we lean on when we walk away from God. Those things can
13 sustain us for a time, but eventually we will, if left to our own
14 devices, squander those gifts away and find ourselves in a
15 spiritual and emotional pigpen. It is here, in the muck and mire,
16 that God’s desperate love shines through.

17 In this story God doesn’t come after the lost son in person, but
18 he uses the natural consequences of life to reach him. God allows
19 us to hit rock bottom so we will look up. He is still working to
20 bring us back home. And, though we want to fall to our knees,
21 plead for forgiveness, and take the place of a servant instead of a
22 son, God doesn’t even give us the chance to talk. At the first
23 turning of our hearts to him, he runs to meet us and buries us in
24 his strong, loving embrace. “My child has come home,” he says,
25 and that’s all that matters. And all of heaven rejoices when the
26 one who was lost is brought home.

27
28 *(ACTOR 1 and ACTOR 2 are at Center Stage.)*

29 **ACTOR 1: To finish off the trilogy, Jesus told a story about**
30 **a family.**

31 **ACTOR 2:** *(Sings part of the theme song of a TV show about a*
32 *family.)*

33 **ACTOR 1: No. not _____.** *(Insert name of TV show you chose.)*

34 **ACTOR 2:** *(Sings part of the theme song of another TV show*
35 *about a family.)*

- 1 **ACTOR 1:** Not _____. (*Insert name of second TV show.*)
- 2 **ACTOR 2:** (*Imitates a character from a third TV show about a*
3 *family.*)
- 4 **ACTOR 1:** Definitely not _____! (*Insert name of third TV*
5 *show.*) **It was about finding someone very special.**
- 6 **ACTOR 2:** (*Does part of a scene from a movie with a “lost and*
7 *found” theme or describes the plot.*)
- 8 **ACTOR 1:** Not _____. (*Insert title of movie.*)
- 9 **ACTOR 2:** Well, those are all the best.
- 10 **ACTOR 1:** Jesus told one that’s better.
- 11 **ACTOR 2:** Oh, yeah? What was it?
- 12 **ACTOR 1:** The Parable of the Prodigal Son.
- 13 **ACTOR 2:** Oh, I know this one! I know this one! Can I tell
14 it? Please, please, please, please, pretty please with lots
15 of sugar, whipped cream, a cherry, and rainbow
16 sprinkles on top?
- 17 **ACTOR 1:** You know this one?
- 18 **ACTOR 2:** Yes.
- 19 **ACTOR 1:** You’re sure?
- 20 **ACTOR 2:** Absolutely.
- 21 **ACTOR 1:** The one from the Bible?
- 22 **ACTOR 2:** Uh-huh! I even know it in the original language!
- 23 **ACTOR 1:** The original language?
- 24 **ACTOR 2:** Yes. I shall deliver the story in its original
25 language of Freek.
- 26 **ACTOR 1:** Freek? Don’t you mean Greek?
- 27 **ACTOR 2:** No, I mean Freek. See, in Bible times, they didn’t
28 have twenty-six letters in their alphabet — only a few.
29 So they had to use the same ones over and over, and
30 “F” was a very popular letter.
- 31 **ACTOR 1:** As it is on your report card.
- 32 **ACTOR 2:** Right. Which means I am a Freek.
- 33 **ACTOR 1:** You said it.
- 34 **ACTOR 2:** I am freekish.
- 35 **ACTOR 1:** Yes, you are.

1 **ACTOR 2:** I speak ... Freek.

2 **ACTOR 1:** I don't doubt it.

3 **ACTOR 2:** So, ladies and gentlemen, The Prodigal Son in the
4 language of Freek.

5 **ACTOR 1:** This should be good.

6 **ACTOR 2:** Feeling footloose and frisky, a feather-brained
7 fellow forced his fond father to fork over the farthings
8 and flew far to foreign fields, where he fabulously
9 frittered away his fortune with faithless friends.

10 Fleeced by his fellows in folly and facing famine, he
11 found himself a feed-finder in a filthy farmyard. Fairly
12 famishing, he fain would've filled his frame with
13 foraged food from fodder fragments.

14 "Phooey! My father's flunkies fare far finer," the
15 frazzled fugitive forlornly fumbled, frankly facing facts.
16 Frustrated by failure and filled with foreboding, he fled
17 forthwith to his family. Falling at his father's feet, he
18 forlornly fumbled, "Father, I've flunked and fruitlessly
19 forfeited family fellowship and favor."

20 The farsighted father, forestalling further flinching,
21 frantically flagged the flunkies. "Fetch a fatling from
22 the flock and fix a feast!"

23 The fugitive's fault-finding brother frowned on fickle
24 forgiveness of former folderol.

25 But the faithful father figured, "Filial fidelity is fine,
26 but the fugitive is found! What forbids fervent festivity?
27 Let the flags be unfurled! Let fanfares flare!" The
28 former fugitive found faith for future life, for the
29 father's forgiveness formed the foundation for his
30 future fortitude!

31 **ACTOR 1:** Fabulous.

32 **ACTOR 2:** Thank you.

33 **ACTOR 1:** Now that you've heard three tales of God's love

34 **ACTOR 2:** That are passionate, desperate, and wild,

35 **ACTOR 1:** Can you believe,

1 **ACTOR 2:** Can your heart now conceive
 2 **ACTOR 1:** You are loved as God’s special child?
 3 **ACTOR 2:** Whether a wandering sheep
 4 **ACTOR 1:** Or lost, like the coin,
 5 **ACTOR 2:** Or a son who set out on his own,
 6 **ACTOR 1:** The angels rejoice
 7 **ACTOR 2:** When we hear God’s voice
 8 **ACTOR 1:** And let him carry us home.

9

10

11 4. THE ILLUSTRATED SAMARITAN

12

13 **THEME TEXT**

14 Luke 10:25-37, the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

15

16 **FOCUS**

17 To illustrate that the principles of the Good Samaritan may be
 18 applied by anyone in everyday life.

19

20 **CAST**

21 Reader 1

22 Young Lad (nerd)

23 Three Teachers

24 Reader 2

25 Three Girls

26 Hero

27 Three Hoodlums

28

29 **PROPS**

30 A “self-confidence” label, an apple, backpacks, a clipboard, a
 31 “self-worth” label, and a wallet.

32

33 **COSTUMES**

34 Nerd glasses and pocket protector for Young Lad.

35

1 **WORSHIP THOUGHT**

2 There are at least three truths of life you can find in this
3 parable:

- 4 1. The people who can do extraordinary things are ordinary
5 people.
- 6 2. The littlest things in life can make the biggest difference.
- 7 3. You shouldn't wait until it's convenient, fun, or free to give
8 to others.

9 In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, two people passed by
10 the beaten and bruised man; a priest and a Levite, both religious
11 leaders. The only person who stopped to help was a simple,
12 common man. There was nothing special about him except he
13 practiced the great commandment, "Love your neighbor as
14 yourself" (Matthew 19:19).

15 We expect our religious leaders to be the good Samaritans, but
16 in this story Jesus shows it's the common, ordinary people — you
17 and I — that are his hands. Also, we don't have to make great
18 sacrifices or heroic efforts to show love to our neighbors. Often those
19 acts are easier to do than taking the time to bother with helping in
20 the little things of life. But it's the little things that can make the
21 biggest difference. If we look around us, we will find opportunities
22 every day to be "good Samaritans" to people around us.

23 Finally, the Samaritan left before the man could thank him.
24 Before he woke up, the Samaritan provided for not only his
25 immediate needs, but also for his possible future needs, and then
26 left. Love is not selfish, and true actions of love are given without
27 expectations of getting something in return.

28
29 *(Stage is bare. READERS 1 and 2 enter from opposite sides*
30 *of stage. Their parts should be memorized for effect. As they*
31 *deliver their lines, the actions are performed behind them by*
32 *the ACTORS. Timing is everything. The READERS' lines*
33 *should be delivered at a steady pace, not missing beats as the*
34 *lines volley between the two of them.)*

35 **READER 1: And it came to pass that on a certain day, a**

- 1 young lad came to dwell in a strange land. (*YOUNG*
 2 *LAD enters Stage Right and stands facing audience. He*
 3 *wears a backpack and the “self-confidence” and “self-worth”*
 4 *labels.*)
- 5 **READER 2:** But he was not just any young lad.
- 6 **READER 1:** Nay, nay, he was one of a different sort.
- 7 **READER 2:** Unique in his ways.
- 8 **READER 1:** Walking a different path.
- 9 **READER 2:** Choosing the road less traveled.
- 10 **READER 1:** Not conforming to the accepted fashions of the
 11 day.
- 12 **READER 2:** Somewhat odd, but in a nice way. (*READERS 1*
 13 *and 2 look at each other, then, after a beat*)
- 14 **READER 1:** He was a nerd. (*YOUNG LAD looks shocked, then*
 15 *dejected.*)
- 16 **READER 2:** A real geek.
- 17 **READER 1:** A totally unacceptable life form in today’s
 18 teenage society.
- 19 **READER 2:** However, at the appointed time, he rose and
 20 went to school.
- 21 **READER 1:** Now, being a new student at a new school in a
 22 strange land, the young lad was a bit timid and shy.
- 23 **READER 2:** So, not wanting to attract undue attention to
 24 himself, he carefully and quietly made his way through
 25 the hallways. (*YOUNG LAD does so.*)
- 26 **READER 1:** Chancing upon a group of fair maidens
 27 gathered in discussion around the local watering hole,
 28 (*GIRLS enter Stage Left, laughing and talking*) the young
 29 lad was determined to reach out and perchance find
 30 new friendships.
- 31 **READER 2:** So, putting on his best smile, he stretched out
 32 his hand in friendship and introduced himself.
- 33 **READER 1:** But alas, his hopes of fitting in and finding new
 34 friends were met with laughs and mockery from the
 35 fair maidens.

- 1 **READER 2:** They suggested employment as a male model—
 2 **READER 1:** (*Looks unbelievably to READER 2.*) Really?
 3 **READER 2:** As the poster child for “losers of the world.”
 4 Then they left him to sweep up his shattered self-
 5 confidence. (*One GIRL rips up the “self-confidence” label*
 6 *and lets it flutter to the ground as the YOUNG LAD watches*
 7 *GIRLS exit Stage Right.*)
 8 **READER 1:** What Jezebels.
 9 **READER 2:** (*READERS 1 and 2 look at each other.*) One word
 10 comes to mind —
 11 **READERS 1 and 2:** (*With a head nod, together*) Typical.
 12 **READER 1:** While the young lad was attempting to piece
 13 back together his self-confidence — (*YOUNG LAD mimes*
 14 *trying to pile up pieces of puzzle and put them together.*)
 15 **READER 2:** A group of teachers came passing by. (*Three*
 16 *TEACHERS enter Stage Right, deep in discussion.*)
 17 **READER 1:** The young lad thought to himself, “Surely
 18 among the leaders of this educational institution I will
 19 be able to find a kind and sympathetic heart.”
 20 **READER 2:** But the teachers were in the middle of a
 21 committee meeting,
 22 **READER 1:** Desperately trying to discover
 23 **READER 2:** New, creative answers to the problems that
 24 students face in today’s high schools.
 25 **READER 1:** So as they hurriedly passed by the young lad,
 26 (*YOUNG LAD stretches out hand.*)
 27 **READER 2:** The only thing his outstretched hand found —
 28 **READER 1:** Was an apple. (*As TEACHERS quickly pass by, one*
 29 *of them puts an apple in the YOUNG LAD’s hand.*)
 30 **READER 2:** (*READERS 1 and 2 look at each other, using hand*
 31 *motions.*) Isn’t that supposed to be the other way
 32 around?
 33 **READER 1:** One word comes to mind —
 34 **READERS 1 and 2:** (*Together, with head nod*) Typical.
 35 **READER 2:** Finally,

- 1 **READER 1:** Due to a continuing stroke of bad luck —
- 2 **READER 2:** The young lad met up with a group of his
- 3 fellow peers. (*THREE HOODLUMS enter from Stage Left.*)
- 4 **READER 1:** Hoodlums, really.
- 5 **READER 2:** Delinquents.
- 6 **READER 1:** Ruffians.
- 7 **READER 2:** Definitely not the New Student Welcoming
- 8 Committee.
- 9 **READER 1:** And, after a few slanderous remarks —
- 10 **READER 2:** The rituals of male bonding began ...
- 11 (*READERS 1 and 2 look back at THREE HOODLUMS.*
- 12 *HOODLUMS grab YOUNG LAD, look at READERS, and*
- 13 *freeze while waiting for their next words.*)
- 14 **READER 1:** They annihilated him.
- 15 **READER 2:** Beat him to a pulp.
- 16 **READER 1:** Mercilessly stripped him of all his self-worth,
- 17 self-confidence, and pride. (*One HOODLUM rips up the*
- 18 *self-worth label.*)
- 19 **READER 2:** Not to mention his lunch money, too. (*One*
- 20 *HOODLUM takes the YOUNG LAD's wallet then pushes him*
- 21 *down.*)
- 22 **READER 1:** Then, laughing and mocking him, they ran off.
- 23 **READER 2:** Probably to find the earlier group of fair
- 24 maidens, no doubt.
- 25 **READER 1:** And so there the young lad sat.
- 26 **READER 2:** Crumpled on the floor.
- 27 **READER 1:** A pathetic heap of quivering, abused, hurt,
- 28 weeping humanity.
- 29 **READER 2:** About this time, another student chanced to
- 30 pass by. (*HERO enters surrounded by earlier GROUP OF*
- 31 *GIRLS, TEACHERS, and HOODLUMS who all adore him.*)
- 32 **READER 1:** But, he wasn't just another student.
- 33 **READER 2:** Nay, nay, he was a prince among students.
- 34 **READER 1:** Captain of the football team —
- 35 **READER 2:** Favorite among teachers —

- 1 **READER 1:** Hero among students —
 2 **READER 2:** Popular and well-liked by most everyone.
 3 **READER 1:** A real stud-muffin, too. (*He strikes a “manly” pose.*
 4 *All the GIRLS “ahhhh” and one GIRL faints into the arms*
 5 *of two of the HOODLUMS.*)
 6 **READER 2:** And while he was still a ways off —
 7 **READER 1:** He saw the young lad.
 8 **READER 2:** Sitting helpless, hopeless, and friendless as a
 9 crumpled, quivering, weeping pile of humanity.
 10 **READER 1:** And then a strange thing happened.
 11 **READER 2:** Something wonderful, but completely unexpected
 12 by anyone.
 13 **READER 1:** His heart was touched and went out to the poor
 14 young lad.
 15 **READER 2:** Then things really got strange.
 16 **READER 1:** Leaving behind his adoring fans, the prince of
 17 a student went to the young lad and reached out to
 18 him. (*HERO helps YOUNG LAD to his feet.*)
 19 **READER 2:** (*Disbelievingly*) He helped him up.
 20 **READER 1:** Brushed him off.
 21 **READER 2:** Helped him piece back together his shattered
 22 self-confidence. (*HERO mimes talking, pats YOUNG LAD*
 23 *on the back.*)
 24 **READER 1:** Helped him with his self-worth.
 25 **READER 2:** Called him his friend.
 26 **READER 1:** Gave him his own lunch money. (*HERO mimes*
 27 *giving YOUNG LAD money.*)
 28 **READER 2:** And, putting his arm around him —
 29 **READER 1:** Walked with him and brought him home.
 30 **READER 2:** And Jesus said to the man, “Who do you think
 31 was a neighbor to the young lad?”
 32 **READER 1:** And he said, “The one who showed him mercy.”
 33 **READER 2:** “Very good,” Jesus replied. “Go and do
 34 likewise” (Luke 10:36-37, author’s paraphrase).
 35

5. THE UNIVERSAL FRUIT FACTORY

THEME TEXT

Romans 5:8, “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

FOCUS

To illustrate the intricate workings of redemption by God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit on our behalf. To show how God can be our Judge and Savior at the same time.

CAST

Jury (About seven people)

Judge

Bailiff

Owner (Of factory)

Mr. Dave Star

Mr. Everett Body

Mrs. Body

Mr. Body, Sr.

Mr. Adoni

Narrator (Optional)

PROPS

Bible, video cassette, “lawyer-looking” books (big ones), gavel, knitting needles and yarn, piece of paper.

COSTUMES

Eyeglasses (For Mr. Body Sr.), Judge’s robe (A choir robe works well), police hat and badge (for Bailiff).

SET

Table for Judge, podium for witness stand, chairs for all.

1 **WORSHIP THOUGHT**

2 They say that confession is good for the soul. This is never
 3 more true than when it comes to the salvation of our souls. All
 4 too often our human nature wants to provide excuses for our
 5 actions, or “reasons” for our choices and why we did this or that.
 6 To combat this mental debate, God gave us guilt. Not a lot of guilt,
 7 just enough for us to know we did wrong. Instead of fighting or
 8 dodging this gift (and it *is* a gift, believe it or not), if we allow
 9 ourselves to be humbled enough to admit our mistakes and confess
 10 them to God, his follow-up gift to guilt is forgiveness and peace.
 11 You see, we are all on trial, whether we want to be or not, but
 12 God is our judge, jury, and lawyer! The verdict is certain: guilty.
 13 Any fighting against it is futile and, again, only steals our peace.
 14 But, as the verdict is certain, so is the sentence, if we confess: “For
 15 the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life”
 16 (Romans 6:23).

17
 18 *(A lone spotlight shines at Downstage Right. The*
 19 *NARRATOR enters it and explains that Jesus told great*
 20 *truths through parables. The following is an illustrated*
 21 *parable. Everything and every person symbolizes something*
 22 *or somebody. Jesus left it to the people to decipher his*
 23 *parables — so do we. Behind him, in the dark, is a courtroom*
 24 *set up with all other ACTORS in the “freeze” position. People*
 25 *should be placed randomly through the courtroom. As soon*
 26 *as the NARRATOR finishes, he exits Right. The spotlight*
 27 *then opens to include the courtroom, and the ACTORS*
 28 *unfreeze. General milling around is taking place.)*

29 **BAILIFF:** *(Enters from Stage Right.)* **Would everyone please**
 30 **take their places? This court will now come to order.**

31 **EVERETT:** *(Jokingly)* **What’s on the menu?**

32 **BAILIFF:** *(Looks him up and down.)* **You.** *(Walks to position by*
 33 *witness stand.)* **All rise. (ALL stand.) This court is now in**
 34 **session, the Honorable Al Mighty presiding. (JUDGE**
 35 *enters from Stage Right.)*

1 JUDGE: Be seated. (*ALL sit.*) We are here today to hear
2 testimony concerning the trial of the defendant who is
3 accused of petty theft from the Universal Fruit Factory.
4 EVERETT: It was just a piece of fruit, that's all! I didn't —
5 JUDGE: (*Pounds gavel.*) You are out of order, sir! Now, are
6 you the defendant?
7 EVERETT: (*Stands.*) I am, Your Honor.
8 JUDGE: What is your name?
9 EVERETT: Mr. Everett Body.
10 JUDGE: I see that you are defending yourself, Mr. Body.
11 EVERETT: Yes, sir. I couldn't get anyone to help me. They
12 all said it was a no-win case. But it's not my fault! I was
13 just —
14 JUDGE: Thank you, Mr. Body. I'll hear the opening
15 statements in a moment. Is the owner of the Fruit
16 Factory here? (*OWNER stands in the back.*) I see that you
17 are the individual pressing charges.
18 OWNER: I am, Your Honor.
19 JUDGE: I also note that you have something to give at the
20 end of this trial. I'll see that it's taken care of. Very well,
21 is the prosecution ready?
22 MR. STAR: (*Stands.*) Yes, Your Honor.
23 JUDGE: And you are Mr. Dave Star?
24 MR. STAR: That is correct.
25 JUDGE: Very well, Mr. Star. I will hear your opening
26 statement.
27 MR. STAR: (*Addresses JURY.*) Ladies and gentlemen of the
28 jury —
29 EVERETT: (*Jumps up and yells.*) I'm innocent! I'm innocent!
30 JUDGE: Mr. Body, please sit down! You'll have your turn.
31 Proceed, Mr. Star.
32 MR. STAR: Thank you, Your Honor. Ladies and gentlemen
33 of the jury, we are not here today to discover what kind
34 of man the defendant, Mr. Everett Body, is. We are not
35 here to analyze his personality or critique his



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