

Scripture Skits

With Norm Barnhart

Jesus used illustrations as he spoke. “Consider the Lilies. . . Look at the birds of the fields. . .” People remember things that connect with things they see. Every time Jesus’ followers saw a bird they could be reminded of his words and teachings.

Scripture skits are fun because they get the children involved. When they practice, then act out the skits, they are learning the message of the scripture and it goes into their heart. Pray that the children will grow.

God made us. He gave us the gift of creativity. Be yourself, be unique! Look in the Bible, you’ll find tons of ideas and illustrations. Praise God for allowing us to be used to share the message about Him.

Scripture Skits

The Four Soils	Matthew 13
Invitation to the Big Banquet	Luke 14:15-24
10 Lepers, Minus Nine	Luke 17:11-19
Run the Race! (Keep your eyes on the prize)	1 Cor. 9:24
Favoritism Foolishness	James 2:1-6
Forgetful Foolishness – Mirror	James 1:23-24
All that Stuff - Fix your eyes on Jesus!	Hebrews 12:2
I’m going to Pray (bag of money for phone call) Will this be enough for a long distance call to God, what if line is busy?, What about call waiting! If God has caller ID will he take my call? What if I get an answering machine!! What if I get caught in an eternal messaging service...	
A Valuable, Lost Coin is Found	Luke 15:8

**This is a list of scripture skits covered at the
Joey to the World Conference in Houston TX 2007**

**This should be helpful for those who were at the workshop.
If you were not there I hope to write them out with more
detail and make them available later. Just sign up for my
newsletter and we're set to go.**

**A couple are also written up already so you should be able
to see them in greater detail.**

Thinking Theatrically - Norm Barnhart

INTRO -

OPENING: World's Fastest Balloon, Duct tape, Pen,

“I promise to be as brief as possible – no matter how long it takes.”

- Willard Pearson

Two Reasons to Think this way:

- a) You care about your audience
- b) You want stronger laughs

Upon entering the theater have lights and sound set and do a check of lights. Do this before audience arrives. Story of Principal with lights – Open the window shades.

No Theater?

- a) See where light is best
- b) Look for plain background
- c) Avoid windows and mirrors behind you. Light behind will dilate audience's eyes and distract from what you are doing.
- d) Avoid doors where activity will take place –
- e) Story of Mia and water fountain right behind staging area

Solo Performer: Balloondini & Super Hydrodyne

Directing and Blocking the Show - World's Strongest Clown

Stage Movement

- a) Working alone
- b) Working with others
- c) Listening and reacting to other performers
- d) Less movement can be more effective

Head and Body Movement

Holding balloons as you twist
Holding props

Directing Audience volunteers

- a) Direct with hand and voice – some kids are visually cued
- b) Foot pad
- c) Glue feet to floor
- d) Step back here and you can see it from the back side

Directing entire audience

- a) Attention getting techniques
- b) Focusing their attention
- c) Gaining and keeping control
- d) Applause Cues

Safety First

- a) Volunteers and edge of stage
- b) Yourself and edge of stage (Rubin _Partridge Family Story)

Voice Inflection:

- a) Building dramatic impact
- b) Building comic impact
- c) Using a Mic
- d) Using Music
- e) Cough drops, candy, water

Sound System

- a) Check before people arrive
- b) Check mic - do not tap on or hit the mic
- c) Practice using a mic
- d) Bring own system – at least as a back-up
- e) extra wire or mic holder to do a “quick fix”

Be Prompt

- a) be ready to start on time even if they are not

- b) don't expect them to be ready
- c) Early arrivals – have a simple trick to do for them while you wait – this builds rapport and gets them warmed up for the main event

Warm up the audience before the show –

- a) We laugh more with those we like
- b) Just a smile or a hello or a are you ready to see some tricks – all great ways to make a brief connection with the audience.
- c)

Have a Prepared Introduction

- a) Don't let them “wing it”
- b) Example: Intro that says: “and he's got rabbits and ...” gives away the surprises
- c) World's worst introduction - \$5 cash money for anyone who can figure out and tell me how he does his tricks.

Have an opening that Grabs them

Thank audience at the end

- a) At Birthday Party thank Mom and Dad – Brother, Sister etc.
- b) Thank the Sponsor
- c) Company Party – Thank the parents
- d) School - Thank the Teachers and Principal

Finish with a Cool Trick or Joke (Leave them wanting more)

Practice directing a skit – World's Strongest Clown

Have a survival kit:

Duct tape, wire cough drops extra balloons, an extra trick or two, flashlight.

Joy and Delight of My Heart -- A Ministry Clown Routine

By Norm Barnhart

Based on Jeremiah 15:16

This is a fun skit for a couple clowns or for one clown with a couple children helping. You would have to coach the children a bit before the presentation but their roll is very simple. I saw our pastor do something with rice paper years ago and thought of adding some clowning around to this object lesson. You'll need two sheets of rice paper and you can use food coloring to write "God's words."

In Jeremiah 15:16 it says "Your words were found and I ate them, and Your words became for me a joy and a delight of my heart."

Clown #1 enters and talks about people wanting and needing joy and delight in their hearts. The funny person then goes on to say, "there was a King who once discovered God's words and put them in the center of his life and it brought him joy and delight."

Clown #1 holds up sheets of paper, (actually it is rice paper) and hands them to Clown #2 or the children assistants. Clown #2 is asked to hold them up for the demonstration. Clown #1 states, "before the King found god's words, he was in distress, very sad and troubled."

Clown #1 continues, to read the above scripture. As the clown is reading, Clown #2 hears the part about eating God's word and begins to eat what looks like a sheet of paper (actually rice paper). Clown #2 hesitates at first, takes a nibble, then more and finds it quite tasty. Lots of mugging and comic faces add fun here as the "paper" is gulped down . Clown #2 does not realize what is going on, the kids will say, look over there, etc. but Clown #1 will look in wrong place, etc..

Clown #1 notices what is going on. "Nooooooo! Don't eat that!" The two go back and forth about eating the paper. Clown #1 explains, "the King took nourishment from the words of God, he took in all the things he learned from the scripture, he put God at the center of his life but he didn't really EAT the scrolls! He was just using an expression of speech."

Clown #2 - "I got joy and delight from eating this paper, because it wasn't regular paper, it was rice paper that people use in cooking and it's really quite tasty!"

Clown #1 Frustrated, turns to audience and says, "Kids we can be like that King from Jeremiah's time. We can have joy and delight when we read the scripture and put it into our heart and let God guide our lives. That will give us true joy and delight."

Clown #1 "I suppose I should go brush my teeth now." Out comes the giant tooth brush as they wave good bye.

The Lost Coin by Norm Barnhart

Here's a fun comic illusion with jumbo plastic coins.

“There once was a woman who had ten valuable coins.” Invite a girl to come up and help. “This was her entire savings.” (Count the ten coins into a glass bowl or container)

“Once day she was counting her money.” Girl counts the coins out onto your hand. “She could not believe it. She discovered that there were only 9 coins! She was upset (dramatic face – encourage girl to copy you), she was sad! (very sad face.) she was petrified (act stiff and frozen like a petrified log). She said, ‘This can’t be!’” (The girl is encouraged to copy you and deliver the line ‘this can’t be’) This gets a nice laugh. If she doesn’t say it the first time, I’ll say it again, “and she said, ’this can’t be!’”

“One coin was lost! She spent her time searching and searching for this coin. She did not give up. She swept her house from top to bottom looking for the missing coin.” Look around as if looking for the lost coin. Jesus told this story to illustrate how God does not give up on us. He said that he came to seek and save those that were lost. He won’t quit just like that woman did not quit looking for the valuable lost coin. We are valuable to Jesus. And He wants all those who are lost and away from God to come back to God.”

Can you me find the lost coin? Stay seated and if you see it raise your hand or point at it, but please do not stand up.” You continue to search but then turn around once in the process revealing to the kids that the coin is hanging on your back. They will point and you turn and seem to not see the missing coin that they have found. Finally understand what they are saying, find the missing coin on

your back and finish up by once again making the point, “Jesus loves us and wants everyone who is lost or away from God to be found and come into God’s kingdom.”

How it’s done: You will need ten plastic coins. I like the larger 2 ½” to 3” size. Regular coins make the move easier, but the larger ones are more visual. You’ll also need a small glass fishbowl, glass bowl or baking dish to drop the coins into as you count them the second time. One coin is hanging on your back using a 7 inch string from your collar. A safety pin will hook it to your collar and a small hole drilled in the plastic coin will be where you attach the other end of the string. You can wear a coat or suit jacket over this and then as you search take off the coat due to the exhaustion of looking for it and that will reveal the “lost” coin at the right time.

The 10 coins are actually 9 coins and they are counted with one false move, so it looks like you have ten, but actually have nine. Left hand holds the nine coins that appear to be 10. The right hand takes the first one and places it into the bowl and all the kids count along. When you get to coin number 5 you make a tapping sound with it in the bowl but actually retain it in your right hand. You come up with the right hand and appear to take another coin away and this is the same one again. And it’s actually placed into the bowl. Then the rest are dropped into the bowl in regular counting fashion. Make it seem like all the coins are placed into the bowl with the same manner and it will seem fair. Now have a child come up and count the coins onto your hand and this shows that one is lost or missing. Continue with the acting and make the message clear and you will have a fun trick for your audience. Make it fun and pray that God will touch the lives of the children you work with.

A Scripture Skit – Norm Barnhart

Audience involvement is a big bunch of the fun in any presentation. The performer can be an instigator of fun and also be a director of the activities. When kids are involved in the scripture skit, they will remember the story and even relate to it in a deeper way. Plus, it's more fun than just having it read to them.

The Banquet at the World's End. A Parable from the book of Luke (Chapter 14: verses 15-24)

My role in this production is that of the King's servant. I'm also the narrator and director. I do this as a one-man clown skit, with lots of kids playing rolls in this short story from scripture. If you have another performer or several it would work well too. The following is how I have presented this.

I announce, "A certain King was having a banquet. Who will play the part of the king in our story?" Invite a child up and dress him in a royal robe, or just a purple cape. If you can get a cool prop for the crown fine, or just make a stylized one from poster board. My daughter helped me make mine, with lots of cool stick on "gems," it's perfect for the king who has everything. It's regal and grand, gaudy - yet tasteful.

I coach the child to stand in a royal way and to walk like a king. This gets things started off with a laugh. I lead and demonstrate walking like a king across the performance space and the child follows in their own royal style. All the while I'm talking to the "king" in a manor of the servant. "Oh, yes your highness, that crown looks splendid." And "You are the great king of this large kingdom, you would walk with that grand flair like this . . ." Illustrate the walk and enjoy the playtime.

"One day the king said, 'I will have a royal banquet.'" At this point the child is coached to copy the words. Then I continue "And as the king, I will invite all the important people in my kingdom." Child repeats that sentence with royal flair. (Just coach them and watch the fun as it unfolds) "It will be the best banquet ever, there will be great food such as . . ." I turn to the audience and ask for suggestions of what will be on this fine banquet table. It's fun as we lay out a spread like no other,

I ask for kids to raise their hands and tell me their favorite foods. We have pizza, spaghetti and coco puffs and cream puffs. At each suggestion for the kids I get more excited at the king's servant. Wow! This is going to be great! "Oh yes, we'll have pickles and pepperoni and macaroni and macaroons and cheese and shrimp." It's fun and gets the kids to relate to how excellent this banquet is going to be. If I simply announce there will be pate', Kceish and gray poupon they could not relate to how wonderful this banquet will be. (ps: real men can't spell ceish)

I go back to the king and announce – "the table is ready, your highness the food is cooking, and this will be the best banquet ever."

I then say to the king, "At this point, I'll bet you will raise your royal scepter." The child/King does. "And I suppose you will invite all the important people to this banquet by saying something like, "Go and invite all the important people." The Kid King says that and I go out to pass out invitations.

I've done the next part of the story two different ways, you may like one better or try another way, such as have adult actors or other clowns in your troop play the rolls for comic reaction.

Method #1) I'll get three kids who have arrived early to Sunday school and coach them quickly before hand. I'll give them a card with their line on it and encourage them to deliver it in a funny way. They can even read the line off the cue card or if they memorize that is easy and fun too. Keep it low pressure and the performance will be much better.

Method #2) I'm spontaneously invite someone up to play the roll and then on the spot coach them and give them their line and if they for get, I just remind them on the spot of the line.

Three roles are played by three people as invited guests.

The first, the Bible tells us said, "I just bought some land I must go and see it." I comment to audience, "He doesn't want to go to the great banquet because he wants to go look at some land? Didn't you look at it before you bought it? Can't that wait? I mean, look over there in the big castle, the King is having a great feast!" I try to convince him but he just replies, "no please excuse me."

The second person is invited. I hand them the invitation and this boy or girl replies, “I have just bought five oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out.”

I respond, “Huh? You’re on your way to try them out? Are you nuts, didn’t you try them out before you bought them, like buying a car without a test drive? Are you nut? You’d rather go see Oxen instead of the king’s palace with all the strawberry shortcake and blueberry cheesecake and macaroni and Cheese?” They respond back, “no, please excuse me.”

The third invitation goes to a girl. She is invited to play the roll of the dizzy California valley girl type blonde (sorry, but I’m blonde and think it’s funny. – but I’m not sure why.) She is coached to bounce her head back and forth and say, “I can’t come to the banquet I just got married and I can’t go the banquet and I think I’m busy watching a movie I don’t know, I don’t thing I can go to the banquet.

I’m still playing the role of the king’s servant and plead with her to come to the banquet, “You can bring your husband! It’ll be great. The biggest banquet of the year! A chance to meet the king! Come on! There’ll be grapes and gummy worms and groovey gravy!!!” But the kids still say, “no, I’m too busy to come.”

Finally, the Bible says that the servant, (that’s me) tells the King that the important people he has invited will not come. So the Bible says that the King got furious. I turn to the kids and say, “how would you feel if you invited all sorts of people to your party and none of them came? You’d look like this guy.” I turn to King and coach him to mug the anger face.

The king then says, “Go out into the Kingdom and invite the poor, crippled the blind and the lame.” Lame means people who have legs that don’t work very well, they are hurting. He sends the servant out into the kingdom and invites all those people to the banquet.

I ask for volunteers to be these lame and poor people. They limp and hold their arms, and hobble into the banquet hall for the happy ending.

The conclusion is explained to the children. The king of heaven invites everyone to come to the big banquet in heaven – but many don’t want to come because they have other cares and things they care about more. Wow,

we see how kind he is to even invites the poor and hurting people. All of us may come, are we going to say yes to God? We want to be wise and put God and his kingdom first.

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A Short Scripture Skit By Norm Barnhart

- You Don't Always get What You Want

This fun routine uses the lollipops prop. A dealer item you can find easily if you need one. You can even send me \$5 plus \$1. postage in US and I'll send you one. It's a special gimmicked lollipop that will let you apparently show 4 different flavored lollipops and put them into a bag and then one is taken out and kept by you and the child can have any of the other three, but the bag is discovered to be empty and they have vanished. So you can take one out of your pocket and give it to them instead.

The change I have made to this routine is that I'll put a Heresy (or other) candy bar into the small bag and fold it as flat as possible. The special lollipop trick is in the bag also.

The following is played in sort of a bubbling clown style and they enjoy your confusion as you keep giving the choices to the child. Begin by opening the bag, and the bring out and show the red lollipop. "I have a nice treat for this assistant today. You can choose the one you'd like, but we'll make it like a game so you'll reach in to this bag without looking and try to find your favorite. Here is a red lollipop. It looks yummy, you might want to have a red one, but when you reach in to the bag, who knows, you might get something different – like this yellow lemon lollipop. I think it will taste like lemon-aid, or maybe you'll get this orange lollipop, my favorite! Or maybe you'll get a green lollipop. You know I sort of like green lime so I'll take that and put it in my pocket but you can have a free choice of any of the other three. Yellow - lemon, red – cherry or yummy orange. Which one do you hope you'll get?"

The child says whatever flavor they'd like, so for this example they pick orange. You say, "Oh, you like orange, I do too." Here is where the laughs start. "OK reach up into the bag and see if you can get orange without looking." Just as they begin to reach in, pull the bag away and comment, "Would you still be happy if you get a lemon - yellow one?" The child nods, "Because you may not get your favorite, but that would be ok?"

The youngster begins to reach into the bag again and you pull it back again and say, "Oh no, what if you got a red one, and you wanted orange, would that be ok?" They nod. You bring bag into their reach again and they start to reach in and then you pull it back and with a thoughtful look, you say, "You know this is a little like prayer. Sometimes we pray for one thing and we don't always get exactly what we want. The Bible tells us that if we pray according to God's will we will receive what we ask for. God knows what is best for us. Sometimes we even get something different that what we ask for. But that is ok right?"

Once more the bag is lowered, as you say, "Cindy will reach in and try to get the one she wants – orange." Just as Cindy's hand begins to go in pull bag back and quickly

say, “You might get a red one – is that ok?” She nods, lower the bag, and then you again quickly pull the bag back again, “you might get a purple one, is that ok?” she nods – “Cindy is a good girl, she can appreciate what she gets even if it’s not the orange one.” Turn to her, “are you ready?” She nods, lower bag, then snap the bag back up, and turn to audience, “are you ready?” They will laugh, grown and say yes in frustration.

Finally she is allowed to reach into the bag and she pulls out – A regular sized Hershey Bar! A big surprise! “Hey the lollipops are all gone, (show bag empty) but look at what Cindy got, turn to Cindy and ask, “Do you like this more than a lollipop?” (If not reach into your pocket and give her a real lollipop – but I’ve never had this happen, just be prepared.)

“Wow, a Candy bar is different, and even better than a lollipop. This is a little like prayer, some times we ask God for one thing, but he will give us something even better. Wow, isn’t God good!”

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Nice gift! A skit by Norm Barnhart

This is the ministry column so the following skit has a ministry ending, but certainly it would work well for birthday parties or in secular situations if you changed the end just a bit. The main point is that it is funny and fun. Enjoy.

This skit is presented here with two clowns, but you could make a few adjustments, and make it into a solo skit with asking the kids questions about the things.

Clown 1 – (enters carrying an open present and pulls out an egg beater.)

Clown 2 - What's that?

Clown 1 – It's my Christmas present.

Clown 2 – That's beautiful! That's lovely! That's awesome! ... What is it?

Clown 1 - It's a beautiful, lovely awesome, . . .uh (perplexed) – thing-a-ma-bob!

Clown 2 – Thing-a- ma- who?

Clown 1 – Bob!

Clown 2 – Who?

Clown 1 – Bob!

Clown 2 – Who’s Bob?

Clown 1 – How would I know? I’ve only lived here 5 years.

Clown 2 – It sure is nice. . . . What is it used for?

Clown 1 – (also confused, but confident) Well, it’s a precision made, highly portable, very practical, thing-a-ma-gig. It has hundreds of uses!

Clown 2 – Cool, Can you show me?

Clown 1 – Sure, just as soon as I see where to plug it in. Wait, this version has an automatic crank. (starts to spin the egg beater – clown 1 is proud of new contraption).

Clown 2 – Great! You got it started, now show me the good stuff! What’s it do?

Clown 1 - Well, uh, sometimes you have a itchy spot on your back.

Clown 2 – I do I do!

Clown 1 - It’s great for getting those hard to reach spots. (Clown 1 scratches #2’s back a bit – two is happy! Mug it up like a cat getting a scratch).

Clown 2 – I'll bet it's great for curling hair! (clown 2 takes it and implies curling clown 1's hair.)

Clown 1 – I like it! It's also a unicycle for the circus parade (pretend to ride it).

Clown 2 – It's also great for making a breeze to blow out birthday candles! (demo as if spinning a breeze and blowing out invisible candles on a cake)

Clown 1 – It makes a wonderful boat motor!, (demonstrate – pretending clown 1 is in a boat with the motor spinning behind.)

(They now go frantic and faster!)

Clown 2 – (hold to ear and dangle) – Joan Collin's earrings!

Clown 1 – Awesome shaver for dad! (do a quick demo shaving with it)

Clown 2 - Pizza cutter!

Clown 1 – Dust buster!

Clown 2 – Lawn mower!

Clown 1 – Dog trimmer!

Clown 2 - Egg beater!

(They look at each other then both say,)

Clown 1 & 2 – Nah, it'll never work.

Clown 1 – What do you kids think?

(Kid's say – “it's an egg beater.”)

Clown 1 – An egg beater? No way! – really? You have a bowl of eggs and you beat them with it. (holding it upside down you pretend to use it to beat eggs in an imaginary bowl and with the handle.

Clown 2 – I heard some one call it a mixer, a hand mixer?

Clown 1 – For mixing hands? No thank you.

Clown 2 - These kids have some really good ideas. But it would be nice to have a book that shows how to make it work right.

Clown 1 - I guess I'll have to send it back. Wait! It came with a book!

Clown 2 – Check in the box Maybe the book that came with it will help us to learn how to use it the right way.

(They find the gift box and pull out a book.)

Clown 1 - Let's study this, maybe we can learn more.

Clown 2 – But first we need to go to Sunday School and study the book that helps us to live right.

Clown 1 – Hey, do you kids know what book god gave us to teach us how to live?

Kid's reply – The Bible

Clown 1 – That's right, God loves us and has given us the Bible so we can learn about Him and about us. So lets listen real close in Sunday School and we'll see you again!

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