

Jesus Theater *Bounce!*

Written By: Katie Luse



Director's Manual

Jesus Theater

Bounce!



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Written by: Katie Luse
Stage Manager: Erin Morgan

*Special thanks to the Jesus Theater Pre-Cast 2023,
Hosted by The Salvation Army Eastern Territory*

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Jesus Theater – Bounce!

Letter to the Directors

Dear Director,

The **Jesus Theater** is a Creative Arts presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, originally created for camp ministries. It is designed for an audience of children or youth and is around 40 minutes in length. The production shares God's story through the mediums of theater and visual art. It is appropriate for a wide range of ages, including adults.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "**For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power**" (1 Cor. 4:20). It is my conviction that whenever the Gospel is preached, it comes with a demonstration of power. In the Jesus Theater experience, the cast members encounter the power of God's story in the rehearsal process. They then become living testimonies on stage, demonstrating the power of God with an authentic invitation for others to meet Jesus in similar ways. We call this "**Testimony Art.**" These living, acting, and dancing testimonies become the art through which the Holy Spirit powerfully moves to bring others to Himself. The Presence of God is key in this ministry, as He is the one that draws people to Himself.

One of the best ways to "catch" this mode of performing arts ministry is to attend a **Jesus Theater Workshop** which is designed to train Directors to lead this ministry in their own context. I highly recommend the workshop for those who plan to utilize this material. When this training is not an option, these materials can be used with care in conjunction with the video resources provided.

Over the last few years, we have documented thousands of people who made salvation commitments to Jesus through the Jesus Theater ministry. It is my hope that together we will **continue to preach the Gospel** and see tens of thousands more come home to Jesus. Let's labor in the harvest together for our Lord, so that He can have the reward of His suffering!

May you and all who touch this ministry encounter Jesus in a fresh and living way. **May revival come** to you and your cast as you dive into this story, and may more happen than you could ask, imagine or dream!

Be blessed! For Jesus,

Katie Luse

Workshop Overview

PURPOSE: The purpose of this workshop is to help individuals effectively communicate the Gospel in a creative way by equipping people to direct a Jesus Theater. Ministries that have included the Jesus Theater in their programming have seen an increase in number of first-time commitments to Jesus Christ.

THE WORKSHOP: The workshop will include rehearsal times (to learn portions of the production), practical teaching about production of a performance, as well as times of discipleship (learning how to share the Gospel through this art form). Participants will receive resources for directing this production in their context.

ATTENDEES: Leaders who desire to utilize the Jesus Theater for any variety of ministry locations are encouraged to designate a potential “Director” and “Assistant Director” who are capable and interested in overseeing this ministry in their setting. Previous experience in teaching, discipleship and/or creative arts is encouraged. It is beneficial if at least one of the two leaders are committed to the ministry context where the piece will be directed and utilized.



SECTION 1: Bounce!

Overview of the Piece

JESUS THEATER ***Bounce!***

OVERVIEW: This Jesus Theater production is titled, “Bounce!” It utilizes the imagery of God the Father with a fun bright whistle (i.e., breath) who distributes big bouncy balls to people, representing their lives. The enemy is portrayed with an arrow for piercing those balls, causing deflation. Using this imagery, The Gospel is shared through basic movement, silent acting, and a basic narration.

USE OF MATERIALS: This Jesus Theater manual is to be used as a point of reference as your cast walks through the creative process together. Each Jesus Theater cast has its own unique journey and ultimately, prayerfully, its own holy experience. Over time, this experience becomes deeply personal – and will then become a true ministry opportunity to reach outward to the souls of others for the Kingdom.

MAIN SCRIPTURES:

- John 10:10, *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*
- Matthew 6:9, *“Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name.”*

LENGTH:

- **38 Minutes**

CAST: This piece is designed for a cast of 6 strong, focused individuals. It can be adjusted for various cast sizes as needed. Main characters include:

- **The Father** – *fatherly and joyful disposition, able to relate to people on stage authentically, spiritual and emotional maturity, able to have fun, stabilizing presence.*
- **The Enemy** – *An aloof and yet cunning disposition. Needs to have presence. Able to be in command and have fun.*
- **4 more** - *strong, focused individuals*

SET:

1. One (1) Adjustable Stand-Alone Volleyball Net
2. Four (4) Black Stage Blocks
3. Props (As listed below)

Scene Outline

Part 1: The Bounce is Created

- 1.1 In the Beginning (Music: Reaching for the Stars w/VO)
- 1.2 Blown Up (Music: You've Got A Friend)
- 1.3 Playing (Music: Have it All)

Part 2: The Bounce is Lost

- 2.1 Deflation (Music: Wonder)
- 2.2 Burn-Out (Music: High Hopes)
- 2.3 Trapped (Music: Unstoppable)
- 2.4 The Lord's Prayer (Music: You Call My Name w/VO)

Part 3: The Bounce is Restored

- 3.1 Ministry of Jesus I (Music: This is for You)
- 3.2 Ministry of Jesus II (Music: Embrace)
- 3.3 The Passion of Jesus + Crucifixion (Music: Tis So Sweet)

Part 4: The Invitation

- 4.1 Resurrection (Music: Come On)
- 4.2 Invitation (Music: Pray w/VO)

Altar Call

Music List

The entire piece is to be underscored with music. The list below is a suggested music list. ****Songs must be purchased for individual use.**

1. **Reaching for the Stars** (Anna B May, 2022)
2. **You've Got a Friend in Me** Toy Story (An Original Walt Disney Records Soundtrack, Randy Newman, 1995)
3. **Have it All** (Know. Jason Mraz, 2018)
4. **Wonder** (You Make Me Brave (Live), Bethel Music & Amanda Cook, 2014)
5. **High Hopes** (Pray for the Wicked, Panic! At the Disco, 2018)
6. **Unstoppable** (This is Acting (Deluxe Version), Sia, 2016)
7. **You Called My Name** (Holding On To Hope, Christopher Galovan, 2022)
8. **This is For You** (This is For You, Simon Wester & Rasmus H Thomsen, 2022)
9. **Embrace** (Sappherios, 2017)
10. **Tis So Sweet** (Hymns, Vol. 1, Shane & Shane, 2018)
11. **Come On** (Feat. Believers) (Brooke Poindexter, 2019)
12. **Pray** (Blessings, David Tolk, 2022)

Note: Two music lists will be provided: 1) Music with Cuts & Narration, and 2) Music with Cuts Only (for live narration and translation projects)

Narration

VOICE OVER #1

Scene 1.1, Music: Reaching For The Stars

Derived from Genesis 1 / Matthew 6:9-13

0:12

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless, empty, and darkness was over the surface of the deep. The Spirit of the Lord was hovering over the waters.

It was God.
Just God.
One God.
Over all, in all, through all –

Our Father.
Hallowed be Your Name

0:46

Then the Father said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.
“Let there be land,” land appeared.
“Let there be sky,” sky emerged.

He spoke, and the world was formed.

1:09

Then the Father created people to live in the world, male and female He created them. He pressed His image into theirs, and breathed into them the breath of life.

1:31

The people were put into a garden, and given a boundary. They could remain the Father’s care, or choose independence, which would result in separation from Him.

1:57

The first generation of people began their lives close to the Father.
With Him, they were safe.
“Go,” He told them, “multiply, have fun, fill the earth!”

Then, the Father created rest.
He stopped working,
and took time to enjoy what He had made.

2:41

Our Father
Hallowed by Your Name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done.
On earth as it is in heaven.

VOICE OVER #2

Scene 2.4, Music: You Called My Name

Derived from Matthew 6:9-13

0:08

Our Father in heaven
Hallowed by Your Name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done.
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. *Pack bags*
And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, *Press back enemy*
But deliver us from evil.

For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

VOICE OVER #3

Scene 4.2, Music: Pray

Derived from John 3 / Acts 1 / Acts 2 / Matthew 6:9-13

0:48

The Father loved the world so much that He sent His only Son Jesus, not to prove how bad we are, but to save us. Jesus made a way for us to become friends with the Father again.

1:29

After Jesus died, He rose from the dead three days later. He's been alive ever since. His resurrection was a miracle, it was shocking, and everyone was talking about it. Then, He told His friends that He wasn't going to stay with them in person. He was going back to the Father. "But," He said, "Wait. I am going to send you a gift, the Holy Spirit."

2:09

His friends waited.

They waited.

They prayed.

They waited some more.

Then, it happened!

The Holy Spirit was poured out and the Father's presence filled Jesus' friends with an incredible light, power, and love. They were never the same. From that day on, they went all over the world telling people everywhere that God wants His friends back, and anyone can become God's friend and be saved through believing in Jesus.

2:49

Our Father

Hallowed be Your Name

Your kingdom come

Your will be done

On earth, as it is in heaven

Prop List

Set:

- 4 Black Stage Cubes (see construction plans in Appendix, if needed)
- 1 Standing Net (Adjustable for Volleyball)
- 1 Backstop Net (10x20)

Cast Props:

- 1 Large Red Wagon (for Father)
- 1 Large Whistle (for Father)
- 1 Large Arrow (for Enemy)
- Exercise Balls (1 per cast member + Extras)
- Gray Laundry Bags (1 per cast member)

Supporting Prop Materials:

- 4 Carabiners
- Electric Ball Pump
- Materials for Arrow
 - 18-inch Wooden Dowell
 - Elastic Cord
 - Painted Craft Sticks
 - Wood Beads (with hole for dowel)
 - Red Pom-Poms
 - Glue Gun + Glue Sticks

Costume List:

- Cast in black pants with black t-shirt
- Father in black pants/white t-shirt
- Enemy in black pants and gray t-shirt + optional headdress or gloves

Prop Construction

Below are instructions on how to build the props. They can be used as much as is helpful to guide the process. Alternate ideas and solutions are encouraged as needed!

Standing Net

- Place the 4 carabiners across the top of the net to prepare for when the backstop net is clipped up. If you use the net listed in the materials, you can also use the clips that come with it on either side, in which case you will only need 2 carabiners.
- Hang the laundry bags on the net at the beginning of the piece.

Enemy's Arrow

- You can use elastic string, painted popsicle sticks, and a dowel and a glue gun to create a version of the bellow arrow illustrated, or create your own version of it.

Ball Management Note

- Balls can be inflated using the electric pump, which is recommended.
- Cast members will need to slightly dislodge/loosen the pins on the balls so that when it is time to deflate them, they are able to pull them out.



Materials & Vendor List

Total Cost Estimate: \$522.47

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>LINK</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>UNIT PRICE</u>	<u>TOTAL COST</u>
1 Red Wagon	Mac Sports WTCX-201 Extended Collapsible Folding Outdoor Utility Wagon, Red	Amazon	https://www.amazon.com/dp/B096L7MYC1/ref=twister_B097WJ64RP_encoding=UTF8&psc=1&coliid=IDHMATART9D2X&colid=157Z10OF7JFJ1	1	\$123.81	\$123.81
1 Black Standing Net	Boulder Badminton Pickleball Net - Height Adjustable Portable Net - 17ft Wide	Amazon	https://www.amazon.com/dp/B078ZTYFWY/?coliid=I1EFLR40XUUIIDF&colid=157Z10OF7JFJ1&ref=lv_ov_lig_dp_it&th=1&psc=1	1	\$108.87	\$108.87
1 Backstop Loose Net	Black, 10x20 Aoneky Soccer Backstop Net, Sports Practice	Amazon	https://www.amazon.com/Aoneky-Backstop-Practice-Barrier-Containment/dp/B08634K22G/ref=sr_1_11?crid=1V1WOITI37MRS&keywords=backstop%2Bnet&qid=1678376816&s=sporting-goods&sprefix=backstop%2Bnet%2Csporting%2C89&sr=1-11&th=1&psc=1	1	\$69.99	\$69.99
Exercise Balls	Medium (1 Blue, 2 Green, 2 Purple, 1 Pink, 1 Red, 1 Gray) BalanceFrom Anti-Burst and Slip Resistant Exercise Ball Yoga Ball Fitness Ball Birthing Ball	Amazon	https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07S3F2MNH/ref=twister_B0BKX3RTNC_encoding=UTF8&psc=1&coliid=I30PO6K0R4YL47&colid=157Z10OF7JFJ1	8	\$15.85	\$15.85
Gray Laundry Bags	Gray Mesh, 3 Packs = 6 bags	Amazon	https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07VCZVNN7/?coliid=I21GNN0POHW91&colid=157Z10OF7JFJ1&ref=lv_ov_lig_dp_it&th=1	3	\$10.99	\$10.99

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>VENDOR</u>	<u>LINK</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>UNIT PRICE</u>	<u>TOTAL COST</u>
Electric Ball Pump	FLEXTAILGEAR Tiny Pump X Portable Air Pump+ Camping Light Ultra-Mini Air Pump with 1300mAh Battery USB	Amazon	https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08D64MK5B?psc=1&ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_product_details	1	\$29.98	\$29.98
Whistle	Giant Whistle Necklace for Kids, Effective Speech Therapy Toy and Speech Therapy Game in BLUE.	Amazon	https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B071RSXVKR/ref=sw_img_1?smid=A3EA1ZIZ9BKJUVU&psc=1	1	\$15.99	\$15.99
Carabiners		Amazon	https://www.amazon.com/Booms-Fishing-Multi-Use-Carabiner-Clips/dp/B07V2H7FH8/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?crid=4IXVN9EJ11NO&keywords=black+carabiner&qid=1680112393&sprifix=black+carabiner.aps.87&sr=8-1-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUE1MVFRSkxKV	2	\$6.99	\$6.99
Craft Supplies for Enemy Arrow		Craft Store (Hobby Lobby, Michaels, Joann Fabrics)	18inch Wooden Dowell Elastic Cord (Creatology) Painted Craft Sticks (Creatology) Wood Beads (with hole for dowell end/point) (Park Lane) Red Pom-Poms (Creatology) Glue Gun Hot Glue Sticks White Shirt for Father God Gray Shirt for Enemy	1	\$140.0	\$140.00
					Total:	\$522.47

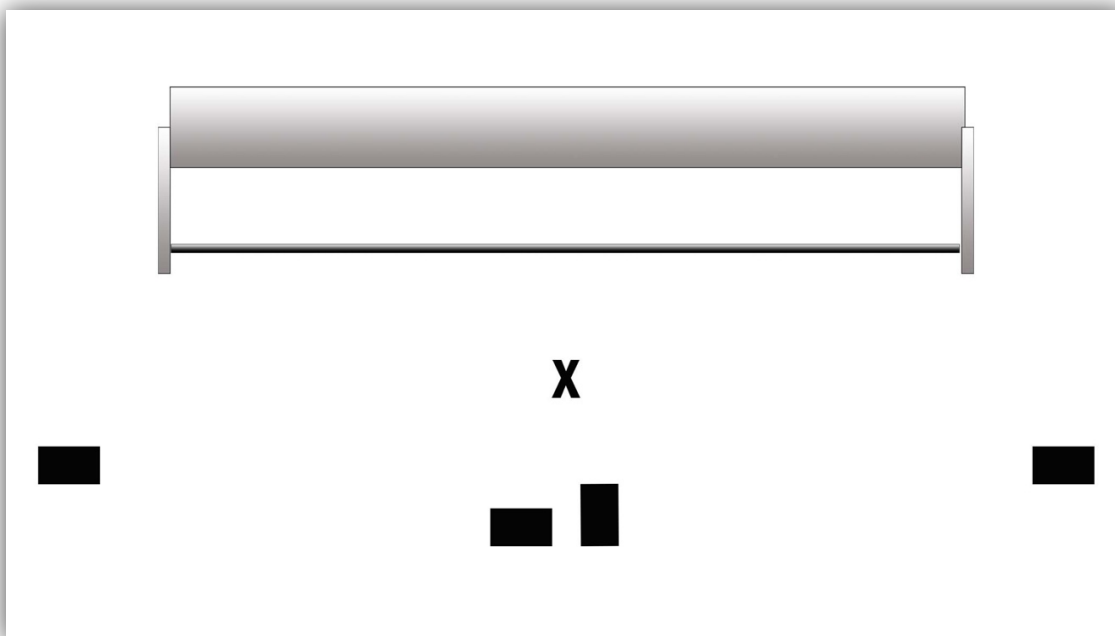
Scene Notes & Time Codes

Note: Below are estimated time codes for the scenes to support the rehearsal video. These will change based on your cast size and personal rehearsal process. These are intended to support your rehearsal process, and do not need to be followed exactly.

Code for Blocking:

Block Boxes = Cubes (shown on log side or short side)
Net = Volleyball Net
Red Block = Wagon
F – Father / J – Jesus
E – Enemy
C – cast

Preset:



- Father offstage in the house with the wagon
- Wagon filled with 3 balls
- Enemy offstage with arrow
- Cast members offstage
- Balls prepared offstage to be thrown in

Part 1: The Bounce is Created

Scene 1.1: In the Beginning (Music: Reaching for the Stars w/VO)

0:00

Father enters from the house with the wagon with 3 balls in it. Walks onto stage pulling wagon in a circle around center 2 cubes

*Interact a little with the kids - find eye contact moments with the audience.

0:30

"It was God" - set up center stage.

"Our Father" - look out over audience

"Let there be LIGHT" - throw ball in the air set ball on the cube.

"Let there be LAND" - roll offstage R

"Let there be SKY" - throw offstage L

"He spoke" - blow whistle

1:09 - "Then God created people..."

Man & Woman enter from opposite sides

Ball tossed from SL "Male"

Ball tossed from SR "Female"

"He pressed" ball press on head and roll over face

Father Bounce ball on the box, M&W bounce

Father Toss, M&W toss

1:31 - "Put into a garden... boundary" -

Father moves the net into a boundary moving SR corner downstage into diagonal

Enemy enters SR to upstage cube and stands with an arrow. E exits SR. F motions to boundary, motions an "X", M&W nod understanding

1:56 - "The first generation of people"

M&W move into family photo

"Go" Father blows whistle

All 3 play with ball

"Enjoy what He made" Father puts a ball into the wagon, M&W fall asleep on ball

2:41 - "Our Father"

"Our Father" - look up

"Hallowed be Your Name" - toss the ball

"Your kingdom come" - lower the ball

"Your will be done. On Earth" - Roll the ball to another person

Look up

Scene 1.2 Blown Up (Music: You've Got a Friend)

0:00

Move back into family photo center stage. M&W sit on balls. Father sits on tall cube

0:10

Father while M&W watch

"You've got a friend in me" Father shake the ball up hold up

"You've got a friend in me" Shake down

Bounce 4x M&W join for 2nd two bounces

Shake up 2 counts

Shake down 2 counts

R,L,R heel

L,R,L heel

Step R pivot, step R pivot

Pop out from behind the ball

Step R pivot, step R pivot

Toss ball one at a time

0:43

Link arms

R,L,R heel

L,R,L heel

Pass ball with woman's ball going behind back

0:52 "You got troubles"

M&W sit on balls center stage hold Father's hands, pull away, pull back in, bounce 2x on the ball, stand and bounce ball on the floor

Step R pivot, step R pivot

Pop out from behind the ball

Step R pivot, step R pivot

Toss ball one at a time

1:13 - "Some are a little smarter"

Man Roll ball to Woman

Woman tosses ball to Man

Repeat

3rd time Woman tosses ball offstage L over man's head, sad that she made a mistake, Man upset

1:39 - "Destiny"

Father gives a new ball to Woman she tosses to the man

Walk back to center

R,L,R heel

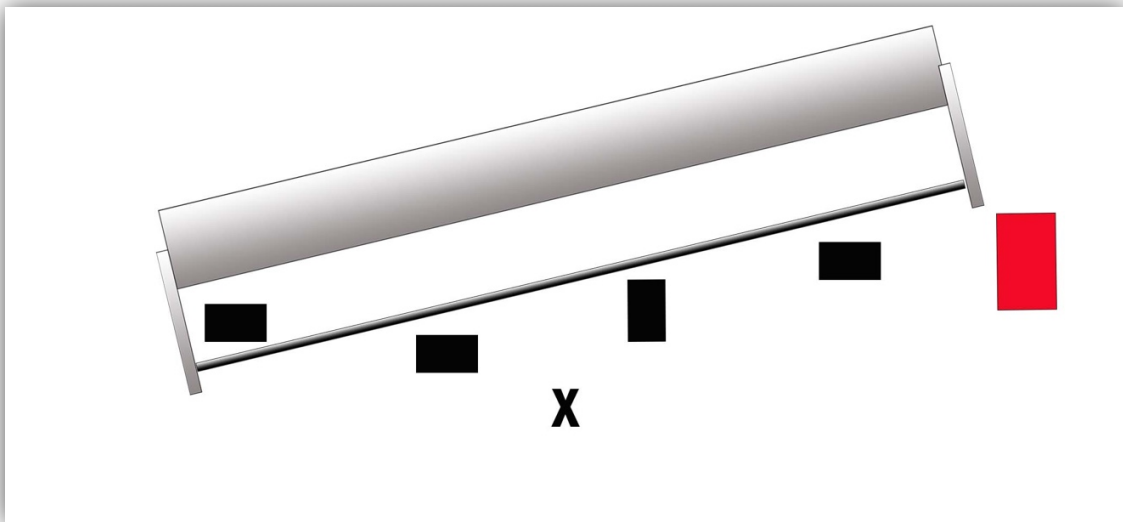
L,R,L heel

Step R pivot, step R pivot
Hide behind the ball, peek out.

Walk center and family photo pose

Scene 1.3 Playing (Music: Have It All)

Father takes balls,
Cubes move



0:11

Father passes out ball - bounce pass, person bounce and then toss or play (bounce and pass with the music).

0:35

Hop scotch 2x to SL pause and turn
Hop scotch to SR pause and turn

0:47 CHORUS "Here's to the..."

Father leads Bounce, cast copy
Father Toss, cast copy
Walk in a circle 4 steps & toss
Together Bounce 2x,
Toss 2x
Walk in a circle 4 steps balance ball on head

1:10 "OH"

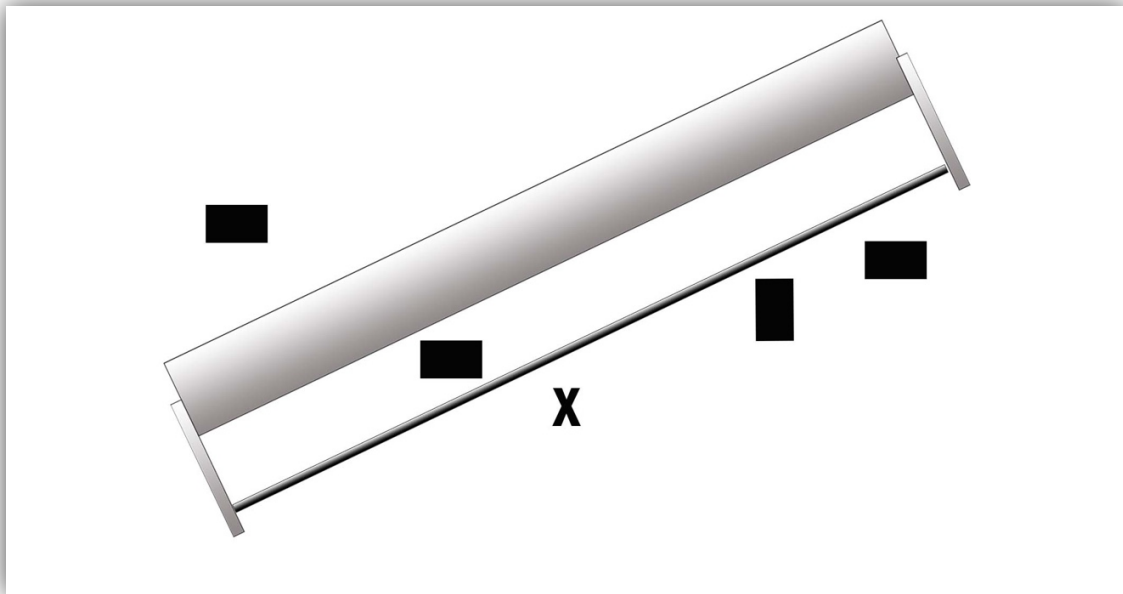
Toss ball

Leave the stage one at a time giving Father a high five or handshake...

**The goal is to break the 4th wall and include the kids and immerse them in the performance. This will have to be adapted for each performance space.*

- **OPTION A** crowd surf the balls from the front to the back, CAST catches ball in the back
- **OPTION B** aisle choreography: one cast member rolls ball to the other while the other tosses to them & play individually. Play with kids.

During play, enemy resets stage- moving the net in front of a cube



1:56

Cast moving back onstage

Bounce 2x,

Toss 2x

Walk in a circle 4 steps

All cast moves SL

Enemy steps up onto cube w/arrow. Motions to one cast member

2:20 "OH"

Cast freezes

Motion with the arrow from L to R, tap R 4x
Enemy comes around the front of the net and shows cast that the net can be pushed,
C says no

2:31

Enemy goes around behind net, taps the cube to get her attention and pulls the net
peeking over, woman is interested.

2:49 “It All.....”

Enemy upstage to net, C downstage to net and lay the net down.
W steps into net and plays

3:12

M joins into play
E punctures both balls, they play as the balls deflate slowly.
Music ends Drop ball

Part 2: The Bounce is Lost

Scene 2.1: Deflation (Music: Wonder)

0:00 “May we never lose our wonder...”

J enters from SL and looks, they blame pointing to each other then to E. J motions
from the beginning not to cross. They slowly step out from in the net.

0:35

Man and woman step back out of boundary into where others are.

Cast member with inflated ball bounces ball, Woman tries to bounce deflated ball.
Toss, try to toss

1:00

Cast member with inflated ball bounces ball to man. Man tosses it back and then
refuses to toss his deflated ball.

Enemy steps on deflated ball. Man tries to take it back drops the ball a few times

Woman crosses SL, tosses deflated ball to man, he rolls it back

Man tries to bounce his deflated ball, woman picks it up disappointed and gives it
back to him. Repeat a few times.

E whispers to Man. He tosses the deflated ball to W one more time.

1:41

Man and woman split center. Cast with inflated balls stand on either side. Enemy gives arrow to woman. Woman goes to cast SL and hands her the arrow, she punctures her ball and gives the arrow back. Enemy whispers to man. He tosses deflated ball back to woman ending the game.

2:07

Woman passes arrow to man. He walks to cast member SR punctures ball and then passes arrow back to enemy.

*Enemy leads man and woman's actions.

2:32

Drop 2x

Toss 2x

Walk in a circle with deflated ball over your head

Cast walks back to cubes US with ball over shoulders/head - heavy.

Enemy gets bags from US on the net.

Scene 2.2: Burn-Out (Music: High Hopes)

0:00

Enemy pulls one box forward center, Forces cast to stand up. And stands on center cube

0:11

E using arrow directs movement from beginning.

Down, bounce

Up, toss

Walk around 4 steps & toss

Repeat

0:34

E calls forward W, she tries to bounce her ball. E offers bag, she says no a few times until finally taking the bag. Putting her ball inside it.

0:58

E directs SL cast member to run across the stage, back & forth. 4th time crossing trip and fall. E gives her a bag.

1:16

E directs SR cast member she “bounces” the ball and does a star jump, cast claps for her. Repeats but it doesn’t work, cast laughs at her. She goes to go back to the cube but enemy reminds her to take the ball with her - embarrassing her.

Last C comes forward and tries to sit on the ball and fails. E sits center with trash bag gives it to him.

1:56 “Mama said...”

Down, bounce

Up, toss

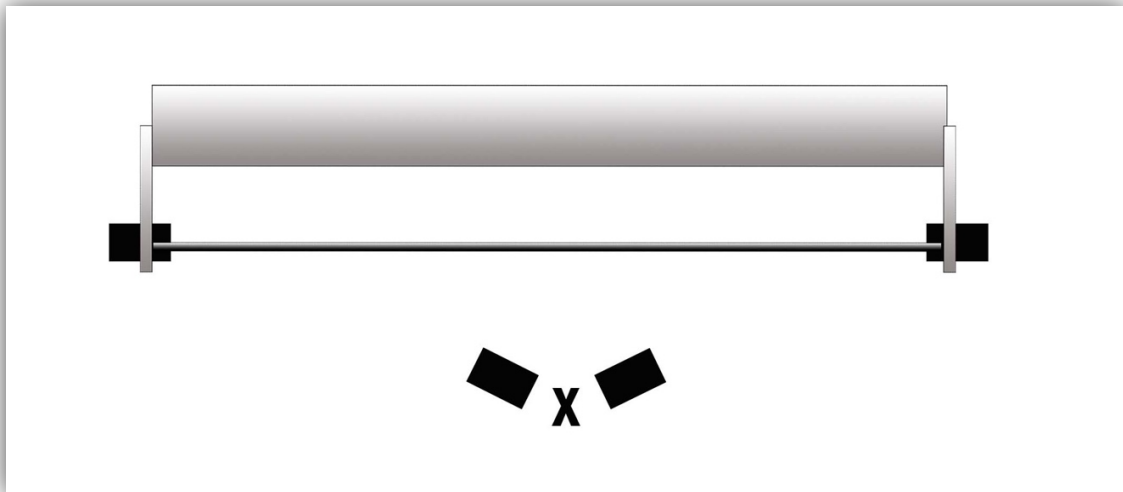
Walk around 4 steps & toss

Repeat

After 1st time thru one cast member quits - toss deflated ball center stage tries to leave bag but it’s still attached to them. One at a time.

Enemy gets trash bags from the net

Scene 2.3 Trapped (Music: Unstoppable)



Net is moved upstage with a cube on either end to anchor it from falling.
Two cubes splitting center low,
Giant net is carried from downstage up to be attached to the net in the back.

0:44

Cast under net- ENEMY SR Mirroring movement
Walk forward 4
Walk back 4
Out 4
In 4
Land in levels

Scene 2.4 The Lord's Prayer (Music: You Called My Name)

0:00

All under net
"Our Father" - look up
Reaching slowly one at a time.

0:25 "Give us today"

Jesus enter. He sees them under the net. Touches hands with one cast member.
"Amen" Jesus tosses ball up.

Part 3: The Bounce is Restored

Scene 3.1 Ministry of Jesus (Music: This is for You)

0:00

J touches hand with cast member SL.
He goes under net to release first cast member. She sits on center L cube and looks away from him. He asks for her bag. She shows him what's inside, he offers his hands again to receive the bag. He puts it into his wagon.
J crosses to SR

1:10

J touches hands with cast member and then releases her from the net. Another cast member crosses all the way to SL and then J calls her back to sit on center cube, acts like doesn't have a bag. J sits next to her and she shows him her bag, he motions to the wagon. She stands and puts her bag into the wagon, they hug.

2:05

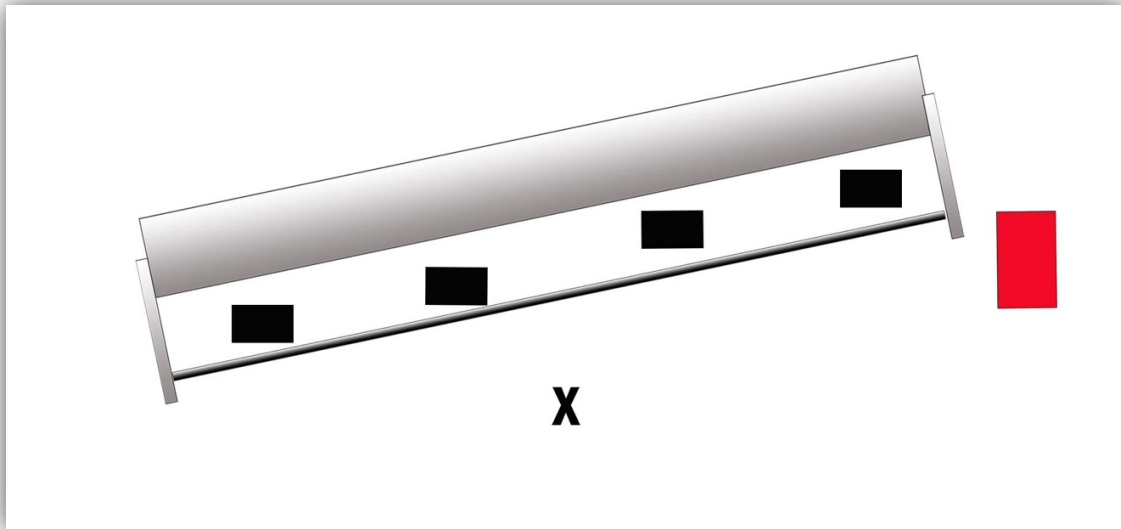
J blows whistle, the net goes over the heads setting free the remaining 2 cast members.

J walks a circle with wagon while cast re-sets the stage.

Scene 3.2 Ministry of Jesus II (Music: Embrace)

Reset Stage into Boat

Lower the upstage side of the net, 4 cubes go on diagonal behind the net, wagon USL



0:31

Rowing in the boat 4x

J enters walking on the net/water one cast member sees him J steps into the boat and calms them down.

Start rowing again 4x. With the beat of the music

Front cast member sees the storm coming

1:00

Cast members from the front and the back of the boat come around to hold edges of the net and wave it around like a storm. SR person put foot to hold the standing net from falling. Remaining cast in the boat display the storm - bumping around, J naps. As the storm builds, cast member wakes up J,

1:22

J "shushes" the waves.

1:35

Row the boat 4x

1:49

Cast stands to fish over the downstage edge of the net. They catch nothing. Repeat 3x

J stands at the back of the boat and motions for them to fish off the back.

2:17

Cast moves to the upstage side of the boat and casts fishing poles
J walks around and tosses a ball to one cast member ball acts as a fish
J lifts it up, lowers down, they eat from the ball. And are satisfied
One cast member gets into wagon while they eat.

2 other cast members pull the wagon with cast member in it slightly towards center.
**wagon has a weight limit of 150lbs.*

2:54

J walks around behind the wagon, tosses the ball up in the air and sets it down. J then comes in front of the wagon and helps the woman stand up out of the wagon.

While this is happening another cast member sits just right of center under the net entangled.

Wagon is pulled back SL

3:27

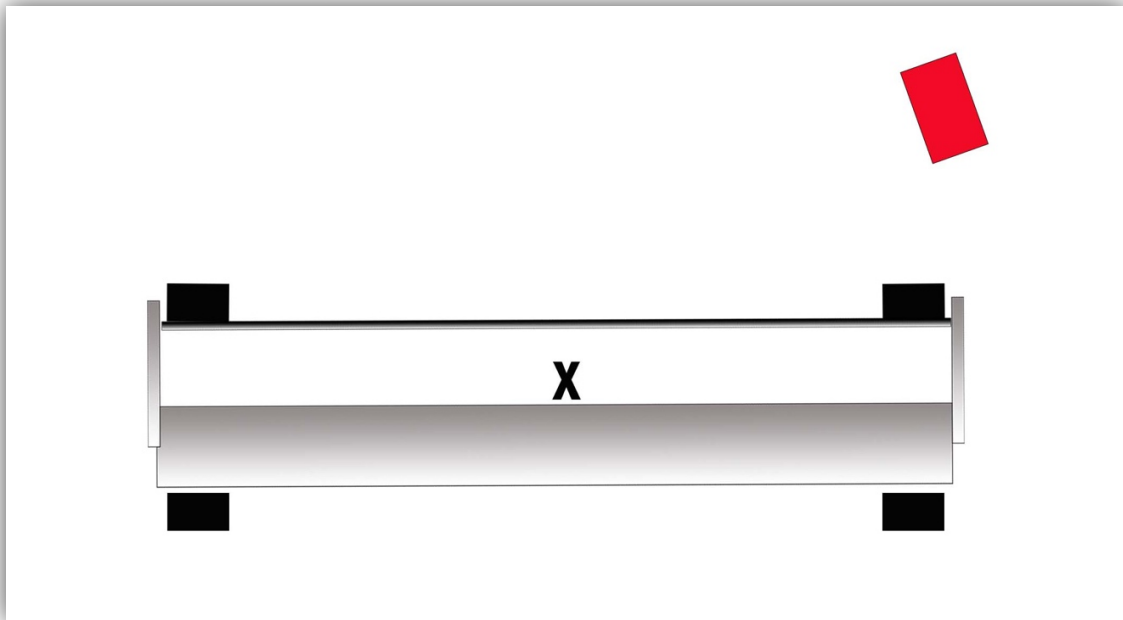
Cast member struggles under the net.

J rolls ball over the head of cast member under the net.

J stands and holds ball overhead and does one big bounce as cast member tosses the net off of himself. Cast member gives bag to J.

Scene 3.3 The Passion of Jesus/Crucifixion (Music: Tis So Sweet)

Reset stage to be a table.
J has ball and they do the last supper



0:12 “Jesus, Jesus...”

Lift the ball and pass they eat

Lift the ball and pass, they drink

0:47 “Oh for grace to trust Him more”

Lift arms, palms together, look at Jesus

0:59

Cast exits SR & SL

1:17 “Tis so sweet...”

Jesus puts ball in wagon and walks around the stage collapsing SR and kneels at the downstage box to pray

2 cast members enter SR, J instructs them to pray.

He prays, they fall asleep.

1:44

J blows the whistle at them to wake them up. They pray and fall asleep again.

J begging in prayer

1:54 “Tis so sweet...”

E enters SL and instructs 2 cast members to march to J one cast member tries to stop the soldiers from taking J

2:03

Two cast members enter from SL to bring J center with one cast member on either side. E downstage L cube

2:20

Cast members leave J center stage and walk around to join enemy while saying “Guilty” 8x

Peter (one cast member) enters SR and stands on upstage cube. J looks back to him, makes eye contact. Cast member looks away and exits SR.

2:44 “Jesus Jesus...”

Enemy takes wagon from SR and pulls it center.

3:06

J takes the deflated trash balls one at a time dropping them back in the wagon. With each ball that is lifted a cast member enters the stage stands on a cube, J makes eye contact with them as he lifts their deflated ball.

J exits SL with the wagon.

Walks with the wagon into house around the back and then down the center aisle. Enemy goes on DSL cube, two cast members in each aisle.

4:12 - “Jesus Jesus...”

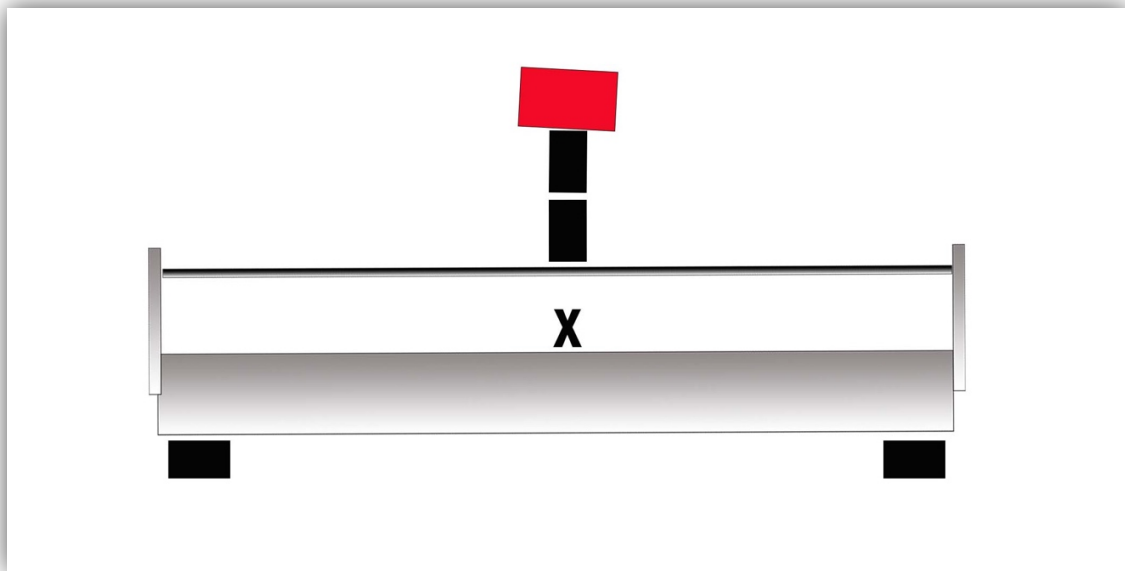
Cast yells “crucify” 8x as J walks down the center aisle.

J lifts the wagon onto the stage and then collapses

4:30 “...Jesus Jesus”

Cast runs onstage. One cast member from each side set 2 cubes are stacked tall sides center inside the net. Then they come downstage to spread out the net.

Remaining 2 cast members lift the wagon to the top of the cubes creating the cross.



4:47

J crawls under the net and then faces the cross.

“Oh for grace”

Jesus stands facing the cross

5:00 “I’m so glad...”

J takes the inflated ball out of the wagon

One cast on each cube surrounding the cross scene. DSL cube has woman mourning, the rest of the cast is angry mocking.

5:17 “and I know...”

E takes the ball and kneels slightly R of center hits twice for J’s right hand, 2 hits for the L hand.

Cast exits both sides. Cast on same side does nailing motion with E.

E takes the plug out of J’s ball gives it back to him - high J’s arms are up.

5:35

E gives the ball to J and it deflates he hunches over it. Dying.

Part 4: The Invitation

4.1 Resurrection (Music: Come On)

2 cast members hold net up as J exits SL they hang the net over the cross

0:14 “I can feel the eyes...”

3 cast members run on stage,
reach up
arms open
reach forward and up
lower arms feet together

“**Throw off every burden**” - run across the stage, “burden” hands go down,
lift up arms
turn with arms wide
lower arms

2 cast members exit SR & SL
Remaining cast members comes in front of cross SR and kneel grieving.

0:53 “Author of my faith”

J enters SL reaches out to the grieving woman. She touches his hand and then exits SL.
J turns around taking in the stage, winds up getting ready

1:19 “Come on”

J blows whistle and balls are tossed on stage 3x (2 from SL, 1 from SR) one with each whistle blow. Then he tosses the ball up and down.

1:31

Cast enters from SL and run J tosses them each a ball.

1:45

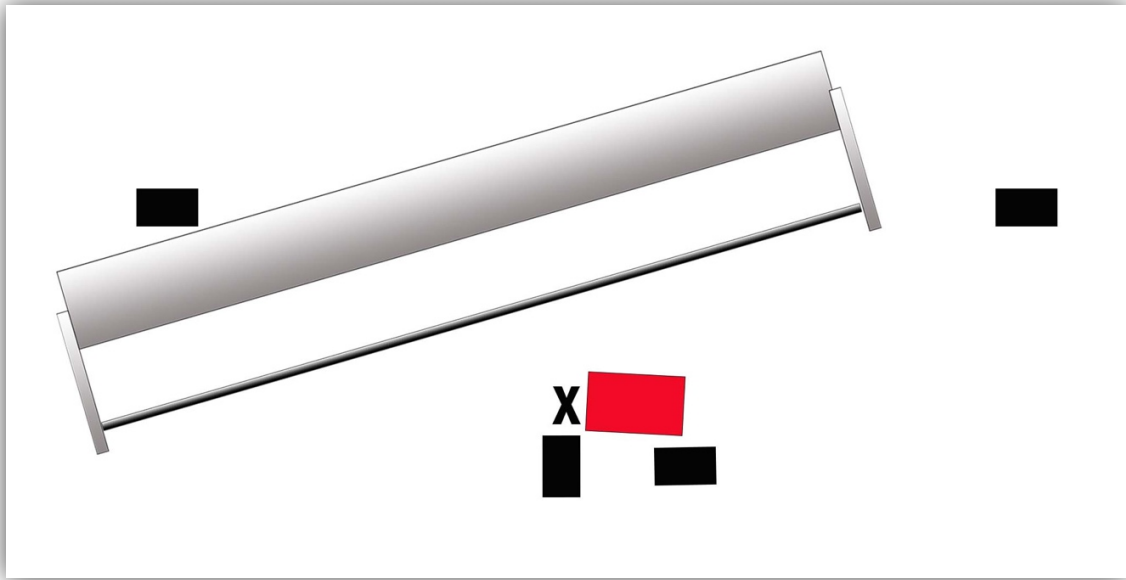
Bounce 2x toss 2x walk around in a circle and throw up.

Toss balls back to J and he puts them in the wagon and people exit.

Scene 4.2 Invitation (Music: Pray w/VO)

Scene Change:

reset with the boundary from the beginning of the piece. Cast gets their deflated ball bag out of the wagon during this transition.



0:42

J sends E back behind the boundary

0:52

One cast member comes to J and have. A moment with J exchanging their bag with the deflated ball. Exit SL.

1:28

J sits with friends on USL cube. Sits for a moment with them
“I am going to sent you a gift” - J takes a ball offstage

2:10

“Waited” Three cast members USL cube they wait
“It happened” two hands up looking up. They toss the ball to each other and then offstage to J.

2:38

One cast member crosses SR and exits, two exit SL bringing their bags with them.

2:48

All re-enter to recreate final picture - in process to prep for the invitation

J offering ball to each cast member

One cast member is crawling under net towards enemy.

One cast member exchanges deflated bag for a new ball.

Final cast member - enemy holds up arrow towards cast member, J holds an inflated ball, E & J reaching towards final person

*this is quick movement.

“As it is in heaven” - Person holding bag out to audience looking at J

SECTION 2: SUPPORTING RESOURCES

Jesus Theater Debrief – Guide

Process with the viewer what they just experienced, processing the story, imagery used, and their experience with the Presence of God during the story and Altar Ministry. Affirm and encourage the viewer in a commitment made to Jesus, reviewing what that means using the guide below.

PROCESSING TOGETHER:

- (1. What did you experience?
- (2. What moment stood out to you in the story?
- (3. Do you understand what Jesus did for you?

STORY RECAP

- 1 **FATHER GOD CREATES** (*Wagon full of balls*)
- 2 **LIFE IS FUN AND FULL** (*Inflated, bouncy balls*)



3 THERE IS A BOUNDARY *(People have a choice whether to stay close to God)*



4 PEOPLE CHOOSE TO BREAK THE BOUNDARY *(Enemy tempts people)*



5 PEOPLE'S HEARTS GETS HURT & DEFLATED (*Enemy's Arrow hurts and deflates balls*)



6 PEOPLE GET ENTRAPPED (*Net covers and enslaves people*)



- 7 **JESUS COMES TO RESCUE PEOPLE** *(Jesus enters into the net to help people)*

- 8 **JESUS GIVES HIS LIFE TO SAVE PEOPLE** *(Jesus makes friends and goes to the cross for them, taking the punishment that they deserve so that they can be friends with the Father again)*

- 9 **JESUS COMES BACK TO LIFE WITH RESURECTION POWER** *(Jesus conquers death, hell, and the grave so that brand new life can be given to people who believe in Him. He offers forgiveness of sins so that anyone can be saved no matter what they have done in the past.)*

- 10 **JESUS SENDS THE HOLY SPIRIT AS A GIFT** *(Jesus invites his friends to be full of the Holy Spirit, which is His presence with us.)*



11 **AN INVITATION** (Every person can choose whether they want to follow Jesus and be His friend, or do their own thing which leaves them vulnerable to the enemy.)



LEADING A CHILD TO CHRIST: Use the guide below to review with the viewers about their decision, what it means, and offer to pray with those who are still considering their decision. Celebrate with those who are starting a friendship with Jesus, and share it with someone who can follow-up with them for ongoing discipleship.

Leading a Child to Christ

Meet Jesus

We all get dirty/deflated/hurt

Romans 3:23

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.”

Everyone sins! Sin is what we do (and don’t do) that doesn’t please God.

God has a free gift for you!

Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Sin separates us from God. But God doesn’t want to be far from you, so he sent His Son, Jesus to pay the price of sin. His gift to you is to live life with Him forever, and not allow sin to get in the way.

God loves you!

Romans 5:8

“But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”

Nothing you have done can make God love you any less! God’s only Son, Jesus died on a cross for you. Now you can have a relationship with God.

Will you be his child?

John 1:12

“But to all who believe in Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God.”

Jesus is alive today and He wants you to accept Him in your life! Do you believe in Him? Will you accept Him? Then pray this prayer:

Prayer

Dear God,

(Confess) **I am sorry for all the sin in my life. Please forgive me.**

(Believe) **I believe that Jesus is God’s only Son and that He died on a cross for me. I know that He now lives and wants a relationship with me.**

(Accept) **I accept you, Jesus into my life. Please help me to live for you.**

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Romans 10:9

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

James 4:8

“Come close to God, and He will come close to you.

Pastoring Your Cast

Below are a few practical tips on mentoring your cast.

1. Allow people time to get comfortable.

I recommend placing a few scenes before you try to mine your cast emotionally and spiritually for connection with the story. A few hours of rehearsal will enable them to become comfortable with you, one another, and the stage or rehearsal space. After you make some technical progress, you can sit them down and begin asking questions about how they connect with the story.

2. Set the vulnerability bar yourself.

Transparency in groups generally comes through one courageous person who is willing to be vulnerable. After this vulnerability bar is set, it is much easier for the rest of the group to enter into trust with one another. I recommend that you, as the leader, consider being that person and share honestly with your group about your life, your story, and how it connects to the story you are telling in this piece.

3. Find “Holy-Spirit” moments.

As you are teaching, you will find that there are certain moments in the piece that are primed for processing matters of the heart. This can include anything from a decision point on stage, to a response from Father God, a gesture of Jesus, a picture that sits with a weight of meaning, etc. When you recognize a moment of potential depth, stop the rehearsal. Ask people what they sense, feel, or see about this moment.

4. Ask Questions.

Questions will help draw out what is inside of your cast. Here are some helpful questions you can use both within rehearsal and as homework for your cast between rehearsals. Make the questions specific to moments in the piece.

- 1.1 What is one moment in this piece that is personal to you?*
- 1.2 What do you think is significant about this moment?*
- 1.3 Is this moment real for you? Do you know it in experience?*
- 1.4 What do you need to let go of?*
- 1.5 What does this gesture mean to you?*
- 1.6 How do you think Jesus feels in this moment?*
- 1.7 What motivates people to run from God?*
- 1.8 What motivates people to run toward God?*

5. Prayer.

Spend time praying together as a group. More information about this can be found below in the “Intercessory Prayer” section of this manual.

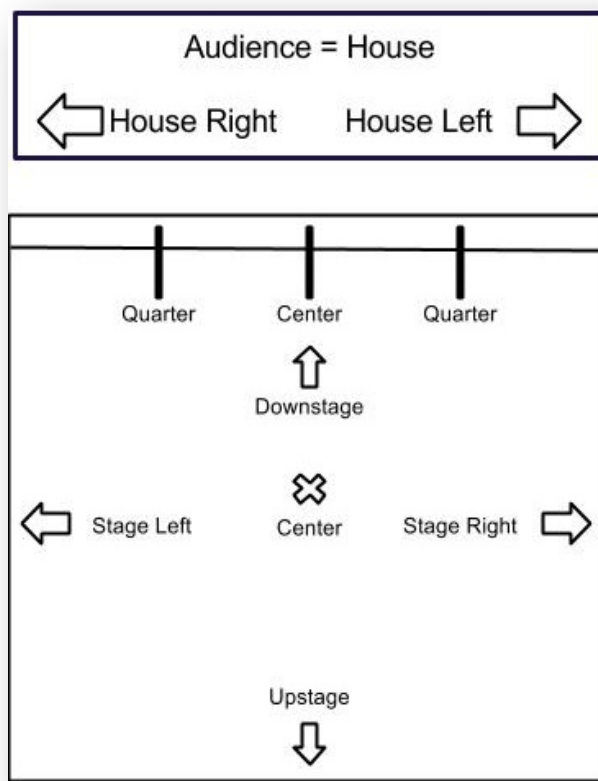
Notes on Casting:

- 2 **Prayerfully choose** who will play what role for this piece. Often people will end up in a role that is suited to something God is doing or challenging them in during this season of their lives. Roles can become quite personal in this ministry.
- 3 It can be helpful to **double cast** the main roles, especially that of the enemy. This will relieve someone from having to play a dark role all the time and will give them the opportunity to be in a redemptive role for certain performances.

Basics of the Stage, Rehearsal, & Casting

Use simple stage directions to avoid confusion.

- **Stage Right:** Facing the audience, actor's right
- **Stage Left:** Facing the audience, actor's left
- **Downstage:** Front of the stage (older theaters the stage would be slanted down towards the audience)
- **Upstage:** Back of the stage
- **Center:** Center of the stage
- **Quarter:** Halfway between the center and the side end of the stage
- **House Right:** Audience's right
- **House Left:** Audience's left



Rule of Thumb

- Never turn your back to the audience, unless it is a clear choice.
- When interacting with another actor profile, keep slightly open to audience, they should always feel included and welcomed in what's happening on stage.
- If you can see the audience, they can see you.
- Don't stand too close to the edge of the stage. The audience should be focused on the story rather than wondering if the actor will fall.

Backstage Etiquette

- It's helpful to create a backstage area so that actors have a place to be while not performing on stage, it also defines the performing space. If you don't have a built-in backstage area consider using material (pipe and drape).
- Backstage is part of the stage. Conversation should wait until after the show.
- Keep backstage props confined to designated space. (Props should be easily accessible and organized to avoid confusion)
- Be aware of other actor's entrances and exits to avoid collision.

Rehearsal Techniques

- Get to rehearsal space early to set up.
 - Setup music
 - Make sure furniture is not in your way
 - Have props ready for scenes that will be worked on
- Set specific goals for each rehearsal. Share your goals with your cast at the start of rehearsal, "The goal for this rehearsal time is to finish the opening scene and begin..." But keep in mind that some things will change as rehearsal progresses; be open to changing your goals.
- Your cast will reflect what you, the director projects. If you are tired and worn out you will very quickly see your cast go from excited and energized to lethargic and unfocused. Prepare yourself physically and mentally for rehearsals. Rehearsal time requires more from the director than it does from the cast. Be prepared!
- Consider having closed rehearsals. Having people watching rehearsal creates extra noise and distraction that will quickly eat up your time. Don't be afraid to tell people that they can come back and watch during a final run-through.
- Consider your cast size. Too many people can create confusion and make focused rehearsal time harder to achieve.
- Include prayer in every rehearsal. Times of prayer help people stay focused on the mission of the project as well as aware of God's empowering presence.

Casting

- Consider teaching one of the movement sections and one of the speaking sections from the piece to everyone at the beginning of your rehearsal process so that you can gauge your cast's abilities. It's ok if they don't all end up performing what you've taught. This is an easy way for you to figure out casting without holding an audition, which creates unnecessary pressure.

Altar Call Training

Giving an effective Altar Call after the Jesus Theater involves:

- (1. Understanding the message and imagery of the piece
- (2. Translating that message into a personal invitation
- (3. Partnering with Holy Spirit

Choosing the Right Person

Consider choosing someone for this role who is gifted in partnering with Holy Spirit to communicate well and introduce people to Jesus. It also helps if this person is well acquainted with the Jesus Theater piece and carries authority as a spiritual leader.

Giving the Altar Call

During the last scene of the piece, start praying for wisdom and insight on what God is doing during this presentation, and how to partner with Him. At the close of the piece, move to the microphone and begin the invitation.

- (1. Share that this moment is an invitation for people to give their lives to Jesus, just like the closing scene.
- (2. Recap the story briefly using the imagery from the piece that the children have just seen. Link the story to a personal application for their lives explaining what the symbolism of the piece means.
- (3. Give the invitation by inviting those who want to receive Jesus as Lord of their life to stand up and come forward.

Prayer Time

Use your cast as the prayer ministry team along with a few other spiritual leaders on camp. (*Note: See “Jesus Theater Prayer Team” below*).

- (1. Once the children have come forward and settled, do a repeat after me salvation prayer with everyone who has responded to the altar call.

Example Salvation Prayer: Dear Jesus, I believe that you are the Son of God. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. I am a sinner and I ask for Your forgiveness. I want you to be the leader of my life and my best friend. I invite You to come into my heart right now and become Lord of my life.

Jesus, I choose to give my life to you today. Help me to always live my life for You. Amen.

(2. Invite the ministry team members to pray over the children near them.

Prayer Ministry team members can ask children if they can pray for them, and then: (1. Bless & agree with what God is doing in the children's lives for salvation and (2. Offer to pray for them for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

(3. Direct people to return to their seats and/or linger in what God is doing. Dismiss the audience and/or hand the meeting over to whoever is there to direct the people to their next activity.

Follow-Up

That evening: It is recommended that the Cabin Devotions after the Jesus Theater are an intentional time of debriefing the children's experience. Some ideas include:

- Do they understand the story they saw? (Explain if needed)
- Were there any moments of the piece that stood out to them?
- What did they experience/feel from God?
- Did anyone give his or her life to Jesus for the first time?
- Document the testimonies.

Following Day: Consider making reference the next day to what happened in the children's lives at the Jesus Theater the night before.

Ongoing: Partner with camp staff and/or corps to provide follow-up.

Suggestions for Logistics:

- Develop a "Jesus Theater Prayer Team," who will help pray for kids at the Altar as well as intercede during the piece.
- Assign 4-6 other people ahead of time to help direct traffic at the Altar. They can send a few kids to each ministry team member.

Suggestions for Altar Call Process & Flowing with Holy Spirit:

- Learn to pause/wait during the invitation, as you feel led. Holy Spirit is breath, and you can learn to breath with Him allowing those in your care to enter into the divine moments that are presented.
- Feel free to make multiple invitations if you feel that God is still working in the room among the audience.
- Don't try to do the Holy Spirit's job. Manipulation or control of any kind are not necessary and can be harmful.

- Keep the people in the room engaged in what is happening by encouraging them to stay quiet or pray to respect what God is doing.
- For the repeat after me prayer, you can tell the children that you are going to lead them in a prayer to surrender their lives to Jesus. But that salvation is not in the words of the prayer but in the position of their hearts before God.

Intercessory Prayer

Notes on the Role of Prayer in the Jesus Theater Ministry

We believe that the effectiveness of the Jesus Theater is connected to the anointing of the Holy Spirit to draw people to Jesus. **Prayer has a vital role** in preparing the hearts of the cast, the audience and the environment in which the ministry will take place. **We recommend praying/worshipping together as a cast prior to each performance.**

It is also important that the cast members **maintain personal integrity before God** and one another. An environment of open sharing about personal needs and spiritual growth will prove helpful in stewarding the cast to be noble vessels for God's use in this ministry.

Below are **biblical prayers that can be used to strengthen the prayer culture** of your group. These have proved fruitful when prayed in earnest by those who are hungry for God to move in a greater way. Consider choosing one or two to focus on as a cast and or write your own prayer that can be shared with your group.

The Holy Spirit loves to promote Jesus. He is excited about your heart for this ministry. He will back you up as long as you keep your focus on Jesus. One of the best ways to do this is to prioritize time for worship and prayer. Be assured that when this was written, you were also prayed for!

Enjoy the Presence of God as you share in this ministry. You can personally get filled up by taking time to experience God before, during and after a Jesus Theater performance. Remember, God cares for the laborers too. He is present for you.

Learn to love and make time for connecting with the Living God as you share His story! **Make room for prayer in your Jesus Theater Ministry.** It will make a difference for you, your cast, and your audience.

Biblical Prayers

Adapted from Key Apostolic Prayers, Mike Bickle, International House of Prayer

- **Ephesians 1:17-19** – 17That the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may KNOW [experience] what is the hope of His calling [assurance/clarity of God's call for our life], what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints [our destiny as Jesus' inheritance], 19and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power...

- **Ephesians 3:16-19** – 16 THAT He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 THAT Christ may dwell [manifest His presence] in your hearts through faith; THAT you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend [experience] with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; THAT you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
- **Philippians 1:9-11** – 9 That your love may abound still more and more in knowledge [of God] and all discernment, 10 that you may approve [rejoice in] the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere [no compromise] and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness...
- **Colossians 1:9-11** – 9 That you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and long suffering with joy...
- **Romans 15:5-6, 13** – 5 May the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another...6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the...Father...13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- **1 Corinthians 1:5-8** – 5 That you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, 6 even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you [by miracles], 7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of...Jesus Christ, 8 who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **1 Thessalonians 3:10-13** – 10 Praying exceedingly that... [God will release His Spirit and grace to] perfect what is lacking in your faith... 12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all... 13 that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father.
- **2 Thessalonians 1:11-12** – 11 We pray always for you that God would count you worthy of [prepare us for] this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness [plans for us] and the work of faith with power, 12 that the name of...Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God.
- **2 Thessalonians 3:1-5** – 1 Pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly [rapidly increase its influence] and be glorified, just as it is with you...

3 The Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one...
5 May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience [perseverance or endurance] of Christ.

- **Acts 4:29-31** – 29Lord... grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, 30by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus. 31And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.
- **Luke 24:49-50** – 49Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high. 50...He lifted up His hands and blessed them...
- **Acts 2:17-21** – 17In the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. 18On My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy. 19I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood, fire and vapor of smoke. 20The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, BEFORE the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. 21Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.

SECTION 3: NOTES

Scene:				
Music	Script	Set Note	Time	Overview of Scene

Rehearsal Notes

*This space is for the director to prepare notes for rehearsal. Jot down specifics that will help you to teach others.

Scene:				
Music	Script	Set Note	Time	Overview of Scene

Scene:				
Music	Script	Set Note	Time	Overview of Scene

Scene:				
Music	Script	Set Note	Time	Overview of Scene

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General Notes

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Appx. A: Jesus Theater Altar Calls, by Capt. Jason Knaggs

INTRODUCTION

We believe firmly that the program that we are running at our camp is singular: Christian Education. All of the expressions of activities, skill building, education, and challenges are based on the fact that we have a summer camp that leads children to the Lord. The staff we choose are prayed for and they are recruited and interviewed through an expectation of a love for God and love for children. Each staff member that works directly with the kids is told about these specific goals of camp: to make Jr. Soldiers, to encourage a relationship with the Lord for the rest of their lives, and to help them become a part of the fellowship of believers at The Salvation Army. The whole family, from babies to Grandparents to Aunts and Uncles, can become a part of the ministry of telling the world about the life changing love of Christ.

The Jesus Theater has played a critical role in the pursuit of these goals. My role in Jesus Theater as Camp Director is to provide leadership to the ministry experience. This involves pastoring the camp as a whole to embrace and support the Jesus Theater ministry through strategic support before, during, and after the piece is presented. When the Jesus Theater is presented, I have the privilege of facilitating the altar call, salvation appeal, prayer time and follow up plan. These are essential parts of the Jesus Theater Ministry.

In the following pages, I outline my experience with the Jesus Theater Ministry. It is not perfect, nor is it the only way to do it, but it is what I have learned over the years. I pray that as you read these pages, you will see that the Lord is still in the business of changing lives. He has chosen to include us in His amazing gift of salvation. I believe that good planning and preparation create the best opportunity for impact. Take a moment to imagine if every person who saw the Jesus Theater made a decision to follow Christ. My life has been changed by this ministry and yours will be as well!

PRACTICE & STAFF GO FIRST

During Orientation (Staff training) we explain the format for the Morning Devotions for campers and how they will lead up to the Jesus Theater experience. Jesus Theater is first presented to the staff as a premiere presentation. They experience the Jesus Theater with an opportunity to respond for themselves. Then I walk them through how we as a staff are going to participate and help pray with the kids. This time helps staff to understand how important this moment is, and to

practice what they will be doing with campers during the Jesus Theater performances.

We want this to be an opportunity for the staff to respond personally. We go through the steps of the response time challenging each staff member to recommit themselves to the Lord. Then we have a special time of prayer focused on all the kids who will see the Jesus Theater throughout the summer. We also help them to see need to focus on the kids. We encourage them to be praying through the entire Jesus Theater for the cast, the campers, and the time of response.

BEFORE THE JESUS THEATER

Each day we have two specific times of reflection on the Bible. We start the day off with worship every day, we call this Morning Discovery. This is a structured meeting with emphasis on fun-filled worship, specific stories designed to reach kids, and a take away – we call the Bible point. We do a tech-sheet for each meeting and have assigned seating for all the cabins so that everyone knows the plan. The rest of the day is designed to emphasize God’s interaction with people and how the Bible focus for the day resounds throughout camp. Then we end the day with cabin devotions. These are prepared for each day well in advance of the summer. This process is explained in detail to the counselors during orientation. They need to understand the purpose of our program and how to prepare for the campers.

The Jesus Theater is presented as the last evening program of the session. We start the night with the theme song like we start Morning Discovery each day. This song is always upbeat and has the potential to get stuck in your head and to deposit the biblical truth in your heart. Throughout the day you can hear the song being sung by campers and staff, even with the motions. We also recap each day’s Bible Point, memory verse, and then we watch all of the daily videos we made throughout the session. After we recapped the week, the cast appears on the edge of the stage.

EDGE OF THE STAGE

Usually a member of the leadership team introduces the Jesus Theater, and gives a basic overview of the story at the start. They explain some of the objects in the piece and give basic instruction and theater etiquette. We encourage the kids to enjoy themselves but not to applaud at the end of each scene. We explain that they do not want to miss any moment of the Jesus Theater and instead should listen to the whole story with their ears and their hearts. Staff are interspersed among the campers so that they can help the kids stay focused and be in place for the altar call at the end. This segment always ends with a prayer for the Jesus Theater.

Then it starts. I always watch the piece, either from the side of the stage or from the floor. I’m praying fervently for the campers and staff and will often get overcome with emotion. As I pray, I can feel the prayers of parents being answered, prayers for someone to love their kids and lead them to the Lord. Throughout the

piece there are tears, and a lot of me saying to myself, “you can do this.” Then it ends and the prayer time begins.

TRANSITION

As the piece ends, be sensitive to the energy of the room and do your best to transition it into a prayer meeting. Pray about these transitions before the first camper presentation. In preparation, watch the rehearsals multiple times and pray, seriously pray, that the Lord will inhabit this space and that every kid that comes to camp will know the Lord and will choose to live for Him. This is the best thing about my job! The Holy Spirit still has the power to change a life. It will change you. Praise the Lord!

MUSIC

The music should be playing before you go on stage. Choose a song or two that will play at the end of the piece for at least 15 minutes, and that will foster an environment of prayer. Choose the song carefully and make sure it is something that you connect with. I prefer a recorded track but, live musicians are a great idea. The music should be long, smooth chords, and the words should focus on making a decision for Christ.

WALK TO THE CENTER OF THE STAGE

Make sure the lights are dimmed in the room and there is light focused on the center of the stage. Have the cast bring some of the objects from the piece to the center of the stage so that you can use them during the “Words” section below. Practice how to have the objects handed to you, and when to reach for them. The more you practice these parts, the more comfortable you and the staff will be during the presentation.

EYE CONTACT

Before you even begin speaking, make eye contact with the audience. Do not be in a rush. This is a big moment and the Holy Spirit is clearly working. You are not in control of what is happening right now, but you are prepared to tell the kids about Jesus. Look through the room and lock eyes with as many people as you can. Look for those who are crying and reassure them of the great love the Father has for them. Look at your leaders and make sure they know that they need to be ready for the audience’s response.

WORDS

The words that you say in this time may change from week to week. I like to incorporate the ideas of the Jesus Theater with some the things we have been learning all week. I try to recap the story using the props from the Jesus Theater. This will

highlight different areas of the piece that will help them understand the different pieces of the story. Then explain how they are involved in Jesus' story. Tell them that they are loved. Tell them that they can become a child of God.

SCRIPTURE

Hold the Bible in your hand. Tell them that this is a true story that can be found in our Bibles. At our camp we give campers a Bible on the first day for them to use with nightly devotions. I use that Bible. That's the one they are taking home with them, and they need that connection.

All of these scriptures are laid out in the camper Bible. While talking about these specific topics, I do my best to keep connecting the kids to the story of the Jesus Theater. Using the imagery from the Jesus Theater helps them understand the story and how they are a part of it. It also provides a good model for the counselors and staff while praying for the kids. They can reiterate the ideas and help make connections in the presentation to the individual campers.

First, we talk about sin – Romans 3:23 “For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.”

God has a gift for you – Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

God loves you! – Romans 5:8 – “But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”

You can become a child of God! – John 1:12 “But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God.”

Jesus is alive today, and He wants you to accept Him in your life!

RESPONSE

I firmly believe that the kids have to respond by leaving their seats. At our camp, the kids fill the stage and the area in front of the seats. Ensure that your room layout and seating design have space for the entire room to come forward.

Then you invite them to come up to the front if they would like to become a child of God and be prayed for by a member of the cast or staff. This moment is amazing. It feels like the start of a marathon. The invitation is given, and they all move at once. Praise the Lord! I usually move towards the back of the stage to make room for the kids and staff. Instruct the children to move slowly and to gather with staff. Some of the kids will be most comfortable sitting in small circles facing each other. Instruct the kids and staff to get grouped together. The size of the group depends on the comfort of the campers and staff.

One of the powerful things about the Jesus Theater is that the entire camp is present. The kids can pray with anyone they would like. The lifeguards or dining room staff who have made connections throughout the week are pursued by the campers. This reinforces the ministry focus to all the staff on camp. The program of camp includes all the staff. Each person can make a difference, and they need to see the power of making connections and putting the needs of the campers first.

Some campers will not come forward. Staff are instructed during orientation to gather around those kids and take the opportunity to ask them questions and pray with them. I also ask the staff and visitors who are in the room to start praying for the kids who have come forward.

After a moment ask the kids if they still need a staff member to pray with them and then help the available staff move toward them. I then ask all the children to look at me. With the Bible still in their view, I tell them that if they want to become children of God that they can pray and that they can repeat after me. The music should be low enough that you can hear all of the little voices praying along with you.

REPEAT AFTER ME

Dear God,

I am sorry for all the sin in my life. Please forgive me.

I believe that Jesus is God's only Son and that He died on a cross for me. I know that He now lives and wants a relationship with me.

I accept you Jesus into my life. Please help me to live for You.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

Romans 10:9 – “If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

James 4:8 – “Come close to God and He will come close to you.”

PRAYER CIRCLES

Then ask the counselors and staff to pray for each kid. I will often say, “No one leaves this place without being prayed for.” Be sensitive to the room and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Give the counselors a chance to get each kid's name and pray for them by name. Kids will cry and staff will cry. The really good staff will put their arms around the kids and cover them with prayers of hope and protection. Have tissues available. This is a very emotional end to a long week. Some kids will need one-on-one attention, and will need to be surrounded by the counselors that have the ability to comfort and listen to the kids.

Once people begin wrapping up their prayer time and the room noise increases, I will often tell the campers to be sensitive to the others in the room praying. Then once the majority of the room is still and waiting, I will get their attention and have them look at me.

Holding the Bible up with one hand, I ask the campers to raise their hand if they prayed the repeat after me prayer. The sea of hands that go up are really encouraging to the cast members and staff who have worked so hard to put the week together. Then I show them the cover of the Bible that I am holding. They will recognize them from the night devotions. Then I show them the first two pages of the Bible where the prayer they prayed tonight with me is located, and where the scriptures that I read can be found.

CHALLENGE

I tell them that if they prayed that prayer that they now have a job to do when they get home. I tell them to bring their Bibles home and show at least one person in their house their Bible and the prayer that they prayed at camp. I tell them to ask that person if they want to pray that same prayer with them. Then, after I encourage them to show one person on their block and then one person at their school. I think that all believers need to tell the story. A kid has been given a gift that night, a gift of salvation and a gift to share with other people. Why wait?

The first time I did this, it came to me in the moment. I hadn't planned to share it, but the challenge to share this prayer with their family just came out of my mouth. Three days after, we got a call from a Sender who had just talked to a parent who was crying on the phone. She said that her son came back from a great week at camp and that he showed her his new Bible. He turned to the first couple pages and then asked his Mom if she wanted to pray the prayer with him. He said it line-by-line like I did. And that day, he led his mother back to the Lord. I mean, come on. That's incredible. After hearing that story, I have done the same challenge each week with the kids.

BACK TO THEIR SEATS

Once we have finished the response, I ask the kids to slowly move back to their seats, and for the cast to return to edge of the stage. At this point, kids can be very emotional. You need to be sensitive to kids crying and hugging the staff. We have tried multiple ways to come out of the response time. Each location will need to figure what works best.

While they are walking back to their seats, I take the opportunity to make a shift in focus. This will help the kids who are dealing with their emotions and fatigue (it has been a full week), and will also help the kids who have already moved to the next thing mentally.

THANK YOU

I will draw attention to the cast. I thank them for all of the hard work and prayer that they put into the Jesus Theater. The kids and staff always clap and scream for them. I then thank the director of the piece and make sure they feel the encouraged. These “thank yous” are essential to the staff and director.

THEME SONG

Then we sing the loud theme song for the week again, ending in an attitude of celebration. This helps change the mood of the walk back to the cabin. At our camp, that can be as far as a mile back to the cabins. Helping the kids calm their emotions can make or break the walk back to the cabin. Some staff have been critical of ending the Jesus Theater on a high note or high energy. We tried it a few different ways and landed on this progression because the kids need to get back to their cabins and high emotions do not help that functional part of the night. I feel that the entire night is a celebration. Ending the evening with the whole camp worshiping and dancing seems like a fitting end to a great week.

LATER THAT NIGHT

The counselors will do some more processing of the Jesus Theater with the kids during their evening devotion times. We have crafted a devotional for the last night to help the campers process. This helps answer some questions and gives the opportunity for the cabin to share their experiences. We also have all the counselors write a personal note in the Bible for each kid. Nothing gets the parents more excited than the personalized notes.

SEEKER FOLLOW UP

We also have a process of Seeker follow up. We always inform parents about the decisions for Christ their children made while at camp. We break it down into three categories: New decision for Christ, Recommitment to Christ, and Not at this time. The staff fill out a seeker form on the last night of camp for the entire cabin. We then enter the information in the digital records of each camper. From that we generate an email home to each parent about their individual children and the decisions they made at camp. In the email, we provide a page on our website that is searchable by zip code so that they can find the closest Salvation Army. The following day we send home a paper copy of all the decisions with the lead Chaperone. This gives the Officers, staff, and volunteers a chance to talk with the kids in the van or bus ride home. It also helps connect with the parents when they pick their kids up, creating a better opportunity to invite them to be a part of the Corps family. Make Jr. Soldiers!

STAFF WORSHIP NIGHT

Before the next session, we always have a worship service with the staff. During this worship service we tell the staff how many commitments we saw last week. We always challenge them to pray for the kids they had contact with from the week prior by name. Week after week the number grows. In the past, we have also created an art piece that we hang in the dining hall. For each decision, we put paper cut out (hand shape, kid cut out, stars, etc. you can buy these pre-cut from a teacher supply store or on Amazon) with the first name of every camper who made a decision. And then we place them on the large board so everyone can see the work of the Lord. Over the course of the summer the staff are reminded of the way that God moves, and the kids ask questions about it. By the end of the summer, it is overwhelming to see all the names and the amount of kids that have been impacted by the camp ministry. We leave this piece up the entire rest of the year so that whenever someone walks in the room, they see what we think is most important. This encourages our divisional family and encourages our leadership too. That encouragement gives a specific example of the work the Lord and of the importance of the camp program.

FINAL THOUGHTS

A few years back when I was a staff member, Becky Philips brought the Jesus Theater to my camp. I was really struggling with the Lord, but all the lifeguards had to be a part of this new ministry thing (it wasn't called the Jesus Theater at that point). As we rehearsed the Lord started to soften my heart. During one of the first altar calls that summer, I gave my life completely over to Christ. I was made new. The sins that weighed me down had been released and I was a new man. I still remember the moment like it happened this week. I felt the Spirit of God overwhelm me and I felt the overflow of His love. It was hard to breathe, and tears kept running down my face. And now I have the privilege to lead the response time at the same camp.

Over the past 8 summers as a DYS at two different camps, our team has seen over 10,000 children make a commitment to Christ. Every time we have a response time, I wonder who in this room will be the one to take my place at the end of the Jesus Theater. It maybe you. Trust the Lord. He is faithful.

Appx. B: Cube-Building Blueprint

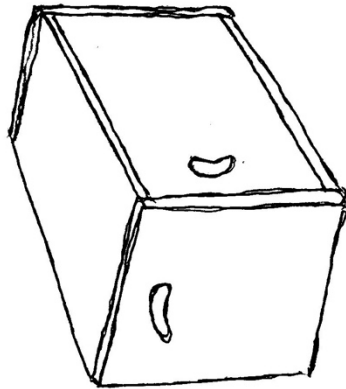
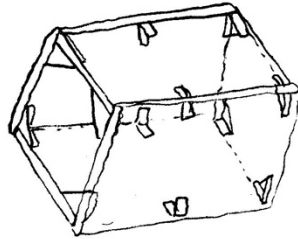
USE $\frac{1}{2}$ " PLYWOOD - NOT ORDINARY
CONSTRUCTION PLYWOOD, BUT
OAK OR CHERRY - TOP QUALITY
HARDWOOD

INSIDE THE BLOCK, PUT
ONE CORNER BRACKET
AT EACH CORNER AND
ONE L-SHAPED BRACKET
IN THE MIDDLE OF
EACH SIDE.

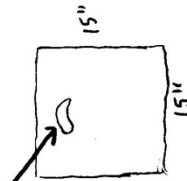
GLUE THE PLYWOOD
TOGETHER (AS WELL AS
USING THE BRACKETS
TO HOLD IT)

ATTACH THE 15×15 " LIDS
LAST TO SQUARE UP THE
BLOCK. ONE LID YOU
MAY HAVE TO BOLT ON
AND/OR GLUE RATHER
THAN SCREW

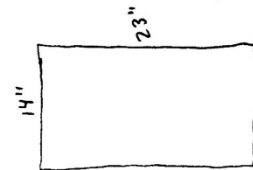
SAND EDGES AND CORNERS - ROUND THEM
TO PREVENT SPLINTERING. STAIN
AND POLYURETHANE TO FINISH.



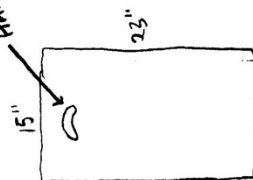
HARDWARE



2 PIECES
LIKE THIS



2 PIECES
LIKE THIS



2 PIECES LIKE
THIS



FOUR $1\frac{1}{2}$ " L-SHAPED
BRACKETS



EIGHT 3 " CORNER
BRACKETS

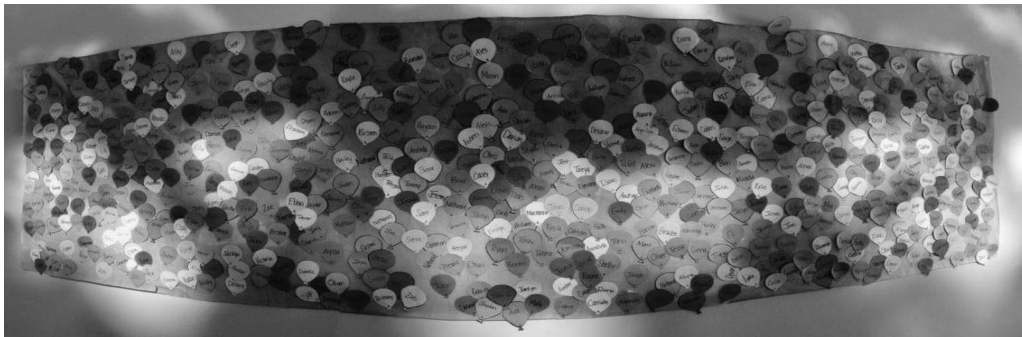
Appx. C: Commitment Mural

Written by Laura Crowell

Many lives have been changed through Jesus Theater ministry and we want to celebrate that. Tracking the number of commitments made through Jesus Theater is an important piece of this ministry. At Camp Sebago in the Northern New England USA division, we have created an art piece to show how many commitments were made at our camp.

After we compile the number of commitments made, we form an idea for our mural. We start by using the main prop of the Jesus Theater to represent each commitment made. For example, in the piece *Balloons*, we made paper cutouts of balloons and wrote each camper's name on a balloon and attached it to butcher paper painted to look like the sky. After each performance and altar call, more balloons were added, and our staff was able to see our mural being filled and the impact Jesus Theater was making.

We have also used this as a prayer service with our staff. Each staff member was able to take a few prop pieces, **pray over the kid whose name was on the prop** and add it to the mural. It was a very special time for our staff to pray that commitments would be sealed in the hearts of their campers.



Camp Sebago Commitment Mural 2015, Created by Laura Crowell and Ryan Livingston

