

37 Puppet Shows

Biblical
Practical
Funny

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Cape Town, South Africa

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Introduction

Often puppet shows are shallow and childish. Our goal is that each puppet show:

- Delivers Solid Biblical Teaching
- Interests Children, Teens, and Adults
- Reaches the Life and Behavior of the Audience
- Is Memorable
- Is Funny

Everyone who does puppets (in fact, everyone alive) must make the best with what he has. We don't use a lot of puppets or big fancy staging, partly because we travel. Here is a description of the cast used in the following scripts, though you can use what you can get:

Monkey (M) In our puppet shows, he's the good guy and plays the lead, teaching role.

Beelzebub (BL) The bad guy.

Isabel (I) Usually good, but sometimes dumb.

The following are rarely used:

Mrs. Hinckley (H) Conceited, very concerned with appearances.

Francis Bacon (FB) A pig.

Chameleon (C)

Old Man (OM)

Tips on Good Puppet Shows

- Sometimes, watch your performance in a mirror or on video. You'll see what needs correcting.
- Practice fitting the words to opening and closing of the puppets' mouths. Your hand (and the puppet's mouth) should *open* with each syllable.
- The more action, the better! I suppose the kids' (and our) favorite puppet show is also the most violent one. To read it seems shocking in our politically correct age! But a lot of Bible stories are also violent. Whether we like it or not, we were born into a world with a raging, deadly battle for the souls of men (and kids)!
- Practice having the puppet face whomever he's speaking to.
- If you can, give each puppet a different voice or accent. Using an accent, southern drawl, Yankee, black, hippy, British, Spanish, German, or other, can greatly add to the flavor and humor of your puppet characters!
- Ask God to make the puppet show a blessing. "Without Me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). "Ye have not, because ye ask not" (James 4:2).
- Keep a clear conscience. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me" (Psalm 66:18).

You are authorized to make as many copies as you want of the puppet shows in this book. You will probably want to enlarge them a little so they will fill up 8 ½" X 11" copy paper. That way they will be easier to read as you're working the puppets.

Bloopers

When things go wrong, if possible, use it to your advantage! Our puppet stage is just a curtain over a PVC pipe frame. It is collapsible, sometimes too collapsible! If it starts coming apart during the puppet show, sometimes one of the puppets will start screaming that the world is coming to an end, and tell everybody to repent. Sometimes when this happens, we have to enlist someone else near the front to assist us since our hands are busy with puppets. When he comes one of the puppets will bite him or kiss him or harass him or say how cute he is. The kids love it.

Once, when I was doing a puppet show alone with a puppet on each hand, the entire stage suddenly collapsed! There I sat, nowhere to hide! I don't remember if I managed to think of a lesson to teach out of that situation.

Occasionally, when I'm doing two puppets I mistakenly use the wrong voice for a puppet. Then one of the puppets can mention that he's a ventriloquist, he was making the other puppet speak!

Once I was having services in one church every morning and another church every night with puppet shows in each. I did some of the same puppet shows in the two churches. One night during the puppet show, I realized I had done this same puppet show in this same church, last night! I don't remember what I did to try to redeem that situation. (If something is important, people can hear it twice. Jesus often repeated.)

“I Hate Kids”

(Only M and BL)

Monkey (looking down behind puppet stage) Are you ready yet?

BL (still behind stage) No! I can't find my glasses!

Monkey You don't need your glasses.

BL Yes, I do! I can't see without them!

M Hurry up!

BL I said, “I can't find my glasses!”

M Would you hurry!?

BL (appearing) Whatcha hurry?

M It's time for the puppet show to start!

BL No, it's not. The kids'd be here if it was time.

M You can't see very well, can you?

BL (shouting) I TOLD YOU I LOST MY GLASSES!

M OK! OK!

BL And when those kids come, you better not tell them my name!

M Can't I call you BL?

BL Yeah, but don't tell them my last name is Zeebub!

M OK.

BL I don't want them to know I'm Beelzebub!

M (chuckling) OK, I promise I won't tell them this time.

BL You know what I'm gonna tell those kids when they come?

M (chuckling) When they come?!

BL Yeah, when they come I'm gonna say "I sure do like you, kids!"

M Yeah, I do, too.

BL Aw, I'm gonna **say** I like 'em, but I really **hate** those stupid kids!

M You what?

BL Yeah, I hate those stupid kids. I hate all kids!

M You sure are mean!

BL I don't care! And you know what else I'm gonna tell them?

M No, what?

BL I'm gonna say, "If you're really smart, you'll smoke cigarettes."

M (screaming) You know cigarettes are bad for 'em! There are 16 poisons in lighted cigarette!

BL (shouting) I know that! You don't need to explain that to me!

M Well, I thought you said you want them to smoke?

BL I did! I told you I hate kids. I want them to waste their money on tobacco, and stink like an old cigarette, and die of lung cancer!

M You sure are mean!

BL I'on't care! I knew a man that smoked, and man, he would cough, and cough and cough. It was funny! I laughed and laughed.

M You sure are mean!

BL I'on't care! Let me tell you what else I'm going to tell them kids when they get here.

M (chuckling) When they get here!

BL Yeah, I'm gonna tell them if they really wanna be tough and cool they've gotta drink liquor!

M (screaming) You know liquor's dangerous! The Bible says it's like a poisonous snake!

BL (shouting) I know that! You don't have to explain that to me! I told you I hate those kids. I hope they all turn into stupid old drunks and winos.

M You sure are mean!

BL I'on't care! I hope some of 'em get killed by a drunk driver! Lemme tell you something funny I saw. This drunk driver lost control of his car.

M Uh oh!

BL Yeah, and he crashed into this car and killed a lady, and her little boy!

M Oh my!

BL And besides, her little baby was all bloody! It was **so** funny! I laughed and laughed when they buried all those people!

M You are so mean!

BL I'on't care!

M All those people would still be alive if that drunk had never started drinking. The Bible says don't even look at the wine.

BL I'm glad it all happened!

M That's awful! You sure are mean!!

BL I'on't care! I hate everybody, especially kids! And you know what else I'm gonna tell those kids when they come? I'm gonna say, "You don't really need to get saved!"

M (screaming) *If they don't get saved, they'll go to the lake of fire!!*
The Bible says, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

BL I know that! You don't need to explain that to me! I want them to go to hell and get punished for all their sins.

M If they'll turn to Jesus for mercy, they'll be saved!

BL I don't wanna hear about Jesus. Don't tell them about Jesus, either. I said, "**I hate** them kids!"

M You sure are mean!

BL I'on't care! (Pause) Hey, what was that noise?

M Those kids are out there.

BL I don't see any kids.

M (laughing) You lost your glasses!

BL (mouth drops open, looks around)

M They heard everything you said.

BL Uh oh! I'm getting out of here! (leaves)

M (to audience) Are you gonna smoke cigarettes? (Wait for "No!")
Did you hear that BL?

BL (from off stage) Aw, shut up!

M Are you gonna drink liquor? (Wait for "No!")
(looking down toward BL) Did you hear that BL?

BL Get outta my face!

M (to audience) Are you gonna follow Jesus? (Wait for "Yes!")
How 'bout that BL?!

BL I hate them stinking kids!

M I don't think they like you either, BL! (to audience) We're gonna follow Jesus! You know the Devil, ole Beelzebub, pretends to like you, but he really hates you. He tries to make sin look good, but really it'll destroy you.

BL (shouting, still off stage) WOULD YOU SHUT UP?!

M No, I'll say it again! The Devil wants to make sin look good and fun, but he knows it'll destroy you.

BL (still off stage) SHUT UP!!

M And he really doesn't want you to know how good Jesus is!

BL (shouting off stage) **NO!** NO! NO!

Complaining

(Only M and BL)

BL You know, I believe in being honest!

M Sure! I do, too. But, wow! What has happened to you?

BL Yeah, I believe you ought to speak your mind!

M It's wrong to say everything you think; it's also stupid. "A fool speaks all his mind, but a wise man holds it in till afterward."

BL I think you need to say how you feel! Be honest.

M Didn't you hear the Word of God? "A fool speaks all his mind, but a wise man holds it in till afterward."

BL Well, I think if yer not happy with your parents, tell'em. If y' don't like yer vegetables, say so! If your teacher is not fair, tell her, and tell all the kids, too. Especially, if you don't like something about the preacher, be sure to tell as many people as you can! If you don't get paid as much money as you want, tell everybody. If the weather is lousy, let everybody know how you feel, especially if ya feel rotten. You don't have to say anything if you feel ok.

M That's nothing but complaining!

BL Well, a man's got to speak his mind! Hey, everybody, you gotta learn to take up for yourself!

M Oh, now I see what you're trying to do!

BL What do you mean?

M You're trying to get them to complain!

BL Well, be honest and tell how they feel.

M That's what complaining is: running your mouth when you don't like something!

BL Well, that's what you call it.

M And you're trying to get them in trouble by complaining.

BL Shhhh! Not so loud.

M You know what happened when the Israelites complained about the food?

BL Yeah, a fire came out from the Lord and burned 'em up!

M Yep, another time when they complained about the food, fiery snakes bit them and killed them!

BL Heh, heh!

M And you know what happened when they complained because they thought Moses was too bossy?

BL Yeah, the ground cracked open and swallowed Korah and his buddies!

M And then a fire burned up two hundred and fifty more who were also complaining about Moses.

BL I bet everybody learned their lesson!

M No, they didn't! Those bad attitudes spread. The very next day the whole congregation got together against Moses and Aaron and accused them of killing God's people!

BL That was dumb!

M Yep, and God struck them with a plague so that ***fourteen thousand, seven hundred more people died for complaining!***

BL Man!

M But that's not the worst of it!

BL What?

M No, Jesus is coming back to punish all the ungodly, especially murmurers and complainers it says in the book of Jude.

BL What's that mean?

M Jesus is coming back to punish fault finders and complainers with everlasting fire.

BL Yeah, that's why I'm trying to get them to complain. Heh, heh.

M You want them to go to hell?

BL Ole Beelzebub hates 'em all! I want 'em in the lake of fire.

M You sure are mean!

BL I don't care! I want 'em to complain about their veggies. I want 'em to complain about homework, about the weather, about the rules, about how long the preacher preaches, about having to wear dorky clothes, about having to get home by a certain time, about punishments.... Yeah, Beelzebub loves it when you complain to the social worker. I love it! Heh, heh! Complain, complain, complain! Everlasting fire! I'm gonna laugh and laugh!

M Well, they heard everything you said.

BL (His mouth drops open, and he looks around.) OHHH! I forgot! I did it again! I'm getting' outta here!

M (to audience) Thank God for all the good stuff you have. If something bad happens, remember that all things work together for good to those who love God. If you're still in a bad mood, keep ya' mouth shut till ya' get ya' heart right. It's time for me to shut my mouth now! (leaves)

Hearing or Doing

(Only M and BL)

This puppet show is most effective within a few days after the one called, "I Hate Kids." I sometimes have done it at the end of a week of camp or VBS, to emphasize the actual doing of the Lord's commandments we tried to teach that week.

BL Hello, kids!

M I'm surprised you'd even want to show your face!

BL Hey, kids, would you help good ole BL?

M (disgustedly) Good ole BL!

BL It's good to see you here! I don't mind if you come to church.

M What has happened to BL?

BL I don't mind if you play the games here. I don't mind if you have refreshments. I don't mind if you listen to the preaching and teaching. I don't mind if you learn all the answers to the Bible questions.

M Something's strange here!

BL Just do one thing for good ole BL!

M I don't know about this!

BL You can listen and learn all that stuff. You just don't have to **do** it!

M (goes into a shouting frenzy) **THE BIBLE SAYS, "BE YE DOERS OF THE WORD AND NOT HEARERS ONLY, DECEIVING YOUR OWN SELVES"!**

BL I like it better, "But be ye hearers only of the Word but not doers."

M You're trying to get them into trouble! The Bible says it would be better not to know the right way, than to know it and turn away from it!

BL Calm down, calm down. (turns to the audience) You don't need to worry about obeying!

M You're just fooling yourself if you hear but do not obey!

BL Don't worry about him. Just take it easy. You don't have to *do* all those commands!

M You know you hate them, and you're just trying to get them in trouble!

BL Don't worry about him. You don't really need to obey.

M This is the last time I'm warning you!

BL You don't scare me. (turning to the audience) Just do good ole BL a favor and forget about obeying all those commands.

M **That's it!** (He bites BL around the neck, pulls him off the puppeteers hand and swings him around and around! Then the monkey takes BL behind the stage and makes loud beating noises while BL groans and cries.)

(Monkey reappears, panting.) Old Beelzebub wants you to think that it doesn't matter if you obey the Lord! "And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, 'I know Him,' and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar" (1 John 2:3,4).

Maybe I'd better give ole BL one more lesson. (Monkey leaves with more sounds of thumping and groans.)

Hell

(M and BL)

M (Singing) Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,
Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,
Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,
And thou shalt be saved.

BL What's that awful noise?

M Awful noise! That was a BEAUTIFUL song!

BL Man, it sounded so awful, it hurt my ears! What was so beautiful about it?

M I was singing about how to be SAVED!

BL Saved? What's that?

M When y' saved, y' go to heaven. (looks up)

BL (looking up) I don't see no heaven!

M It's too far away. Besides the ceiling is in the way.

BL What happens if y' don't go get saved?

M Oh, if y' don't get saved you go down to hell! (looks down)

BL I don't see no hell, neither!

M Well, there is one. Jesus said so.

BL What's it like?

M Jesus said it's FIRE!

BL That's awful!

M Yeah!

BL Do you think these people ought to get saved?

M GOODNESS, YEAH!

BL Well, I've got a question for you.

M Yeah?

BL Are you saved?

M Well, uh...

BL (gets right into his face) ANSWER THE QUESTION!

M Uh... no...

BL (shouting) YOU BIG HYPOCRITE!

M Well, I'm just a puppet.

BL So what?

M I'm not a real person.

BL You're not?

M I'm just a puppet. I'm not a real person. When I'm worn out, Brother Paul (name of the person operating puppet) will just throw me away.

BL Where is this Brother Paul?

M I don't know. He was here a little while ago.

BL Let's find him. (They look around.) Hey, look down behind you!

M (screams) Aaaaaaaaaa!

BL Aw, he ain't *that* ugly!

M Yes, he is, too!

BL You know what I would do if I was Bro. Paul?

M No, what?

BL I'd throw you away right now! No, I'd burn you up! Talking about Bro. Paul like that!

M It wouldn't hurt.

BL It wouldn't hurt? Fire wouldn't hurt? Well, hell must not be so bad!

M Oh! Hell is for real people. I'm just a puppet. I don't have any feelings.

BL You don't have any feelings?

M No, I don't have any feelings.

BL Well, we'll just see about that! (BL sneaks up behind M and bites him and holds on. M just laughs.)

M I told you I don't have any feelings. I'm just a puppet.

BL So, hell must not be so bad!

M (desperately) ***No, hell is for real people with real feelings! Hell is for people who will not turn away from their sins! And it's everlasting fire! And everlasting punishment, Jesus said!***

BL (stuttering) M-m-man y-you g-g-got m-me n-nervous! Ev-everlasting f-fire! Ev-everlasting p-punishment! Th-that's t-terrible!! I-I'm glad I'm just a puppet!

M I wish I was a real person.

BL (shouting) ***WHAT? ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND? Do you wanna go to the LAKE OF FIRE?!***

M No, if I was a real person I'd turn to Jesus for mercy. He'd give me eternal life. I'd get saved!

BL Saved? How do you get saved?

M That's what I was singing in that beautiful song! (resumes singing)
Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ
Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ
Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ
And thou shalt be saved!

BL I'm getting' outta here! I can't stand that awful singing! (He leaves.)

M Hey, if you're a real person, you better turn from your sinful way and ask Jesus to save you, before it's too late! I'm outta here. (He leaves, then returns.) You better get saved before you're outta here! (leaves again)

Tombstones

(M, I, BL, and H)

M Come on, y'all! It's time for the puppet show.

H I'm far too busy to stop and chat with you people. I'm preparing for my death.

BL Well, if that ain't the best news I've heard in a long time! I'll be glad to help you.

I Oh, Mrs. Hinckley! Is there something wrong with you? Are you sick?

H Oh, my no. I want to take care of the details while I'm still healthy so that everything is done RIGHT! Some terrible things get done by the people who get put in charge of a dead person's funeral. I'm writing everything down so it won't happen to me as happened to Jonathan Blake. Here's what they wrote on his tombstone:

Here lies the body of Jonathan Blake
Stepped on the gas instead of the brake.

(disgustedly) I *knew* some of you would think that was amusing.

M Here's one that was in the paper. It was on a gravestone in England,
Sir John Strange
Here lies an honest lawyer
And that is Strange.

H Clever. I must get to work now.

I I read one that I thought was kind of cute.

Sacred to the memory of my husband, John Barnes, who died Jan.
3, 1803. His comely, young widow, aged 23, has many
qualifications of a good wife, and yearns to be comforted.

M That widow sure knew how to get down to business.

BL I like the tombstones in the Wild West. They wrote 'em short and to the point.

Here lies Butch,
We planted him raw.
He was quick on the trigger,
And slow on the draw.

And here's another one:

Tears cannot restore her, therefore do I weep.

I He was so sad. His tears could not bring her back.

BL Girl, you missed the point! He said, "Tears cannot restore her, therefore do I weep." He knows it's safe to weep; the tears can't bring her back!

I I didn't think of that meaning! It's not so nice!

M Here's another one about a Wells Fargo agent:

Here lies Lester Moore
Four slugs from a .44
No Les. No Moore.

BL On my tombstone you can just write "Here lies good ol' BL"

M Gone his crazy way to hell.

I Never did BL repent.

M Now he wants an escape vent!

I I wonder what they'll put on my tombstone.

M Rest in peace, Dear Isabel.

BL You always were a dumbbell.

I I had to work with an infidel! (looking at BL)

M She always tried the gospel to tell.

BL But her singing didn't sound so well! (Pause.)
Now, I've got one for the Monkey's tombstone:

Roses are red, violet's are blue,
This monkey's dead and you will be too.

M That's true. Everybody's going to die. We need to be prepared. If you've turned from your sinful ways and asked Jesus to save you, you'll be safe in Heaven when you die. If you just continue your careless way, you'll go to hell when you die.

H I believe I have everything organized in such a way as to utterly impress the people who attend.

I You sure made us think about what will be written on our tombstones. What do want on yours?

H Here lies Helga J. Hinckley
Lived her life quite distinctly.
Impressed the world with her fine furs
Respect and dignity were hers.

BL Had a face that scared the curs.

H What did you say?

BL Nothing much.

H Now I must just choose some good men to be my pallbearers. (leaves)

BL I'd be glad to take her out... for *that!*

M That dame missed the point. When you've died, you won't be all worried about how fancy your funeral is. Not if you're in heaven. It's hard to impress people in heaven, walking on gold streets, with anything fancy on earth! And if you're in the fire, you could care less about some fancy funeral! When you die, you will meet the Lord! You better make sure you are doing what He said to do!

Way of Escape

(M, BL, and I)

M Hello, everyone.

BL Who are you talking to? Oh, it's them annoying kids again.

M Isabel, hurry up it's time to start?

I Sniff, I don't think I can make it today. Sniff, I'm not ready, so, sniff, just go ahead without me.

M Isabel, we really need you. Please come.

BL Yeah, who are we gonna make fun of if you don't come? Ha, ha!

I I don't (sniff) feel like it (angrily) so just (fake sweetly) leave me alone, please.

BL Aw, what's the matter? You sound like a bloodhound, sniff, on a good trail, sniff, sniff. Ha, ha!

I (With shower cap on.) I said to (sniff) leave me alone. I don't want to lose my temper with you, but you are making me mad!

M I'm sorry we bothered you, Isabel. Please don't get mad.

I I can't help it. I have to get mad.

BL What's your excuse this time? Did you get up on the wrong side of the puppet stage? Ha, ha!

I No. I have to, sniff, get mad because I have a nasty cold, and you are being such a pest to me!

M I know BL can be a tease, Isabel, but you don't have to get mad.

BL She can't help it; she's having mood swings. She ain't got no self control.

I If you would just go away, sniff, and take this nasty cold with you, then I wouldn't have to get mad.

BL I was just leaving anyway. You're kind of hard on the eyes.
(leaves)

M You don't have to get mad now, Isabel.

I Well, I sure feel like I do, sniff. There's no way, sniff, I could be cheerful, sniff.

M Jesus can help you.

I How?

M It's wrong to get mad, right?

I Right, sniff. Well, sort of. What if I can't help it? You see it's just because I have a cold, and BL is bothering me.

M Listen to this verse, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man, but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape that ye may be able to bear it."

I So this is just a regular ol' temptation, the same kind anybody could have?

M Yep.

I And God won't let it get harder than I can stand? (sniff)

M Nope, He makes 'em easy enough so you can get out of it without sinning.

I And there's got to be a way out, a way of escape, right?

M Yep!

I So what is it?

M Remember the promise, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"?

I Yes, I do.

M Our strength comes from Christ. You just have to confess your sin of already getting mad, and ask Him to help you to escape from your temptation.

I And He will show me the way of escape, right?

M Yep.

I Uh, oh. Here comes BL right now. Sniff, now we'll see how Jesus will give me the strength not to get mad, and will show me how to escape.

BL (comes back and rests his head on the stage) Sniff.

M What's the matter, BL?

BL Sniff.

I Uh, oh. It looks like he caught my cold. Do you have a cold, BL?

BL Sniff. (nods yes)

M Can't you talk, BL?

BL Sniff. (shakes his head, no)

I (excitedly) Do you have laryngitis?

BL (nods)

I Wow! So that is how Jesus helped me to escape! I won't get mad at BL if he can't tease me.

BL (rolls over on his back and looks up.)

M Poor BL.

I Yeah. Uh-oh. I'm having a new temptation.

M What's that?

I I want to laugh at him. Maybe I'd just better escape right out of here.
(leaves)

M When the Lord says something, you just do it. Don't make no excuses. Like the Lord say, "Be ye kind," you don't say, "Well, I'm just tired!" or "My sugar is low" or "My nerves are bad." You just do it, see? Everybody's got low times. Everybody's tempted. Don't make no 'scuses! If the Lord says do it, you can do it. That's what it says in Philippians 4:13. Well, I think me and BL gonna escape right now. Catch ya later.

Quietness

(M, BL, and I)

M Hey man!

BL Hi yourself, why do you always have to be so cheerful? Speaking of cheerful, there's ol' Dumbbell, Isabel.

M Yes, but she doesn't look so cheerful. Is anything wrong, Isabel? (Isabel looks glum with mouth tightly closed.)

BL What's the matter, girl, cat got yer tongue? (They look at her.)

M Maybe she doesn't want to talk today.

BL Huh, that'll be the day. There must be a good reason why she's being quiet. Usually she talks more than a tree full of parrots.

M You know, she has been studying the Bible a lot lately. Maybe she read the verse that says that you should "study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands..." (1 Thess. 4:11).

BL Naw, she's quiet enough, but she ain't working with her hands. Besides, it would take more than a Bible verse to change that dame. She yaks a lot!

M The Bible is powerful! It can change people. Maybe she read that proverb that says, "A foolish woman is clamorous, she is simple, she knoweth nothing."

BL Ha, ha! You hit the nail on the head that time, Monkey. That's our Isabel; she don't know nothing. I don't know what "clamorous" means, but that must be what Isabelly is.

M "Clamorous" means someone who's noisy and calls all the attention to themselves because they're making a ruckus.

BL Well, she's not doing that at the moment, but I like that part about her not knowing nothing.

M The Bible says a meek and quiet spirit is worth a great price in the sight of God.

BL Hey, I got an idea; let's pinch her on the arm and see if she makes any noise. (He does, but Isabel still doesn't speak.)

M Maybe she read where it says, "Keep thy tongue from evil..."

BL What makes you think that?

M Cuz she could have said something mean to you for pinching her, and she didn't.

BL Aw, she just ain't smart enough to think of anything mean to say.

M The Bible says in James that if a man can't control his own tongue, his religion is worthless.

BL Aw, just cuz someone's quiet for five minutes you think she's spiritual. That's hogwash. She's probably just sleepwalking.

M The Bible does have a lot to say about being quiet. I'm going to ask her a couple of questions. Isabel, do you love life? (She shakes her head, yes.)

M Do you want to see good days? (She shakes her head, yes.)

M See?

BL See what? I don't see nothing, except a monkey that needs his hair moussed down.

(Isabel starts picking her mouth.)

M The Bible says, "He that will love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil." Isabel wants those things, so that must be why she's being quiet.

I Oh, Monkey, that's not why I was being quiet, but I'm so glad I was. I learned *so much* while I was being quiet. You see, I ate some Laffy Taffy and it stuck my mouth completely closed, so I could not make an eensy little peep. Then while BL was teasing me and you were saying that

maybe I was learning to be quiet because of reading the Bible, the taffy was melting. But at the same time I learned to study on how to be quiet, and I never want to be a clamorous woman who knows nothing. I want to have a meek and quiet spirit that is worth a great price in God's sight, and I want to keep my tongue from evil, even when some people are mean to me. (glares at BL) I will bridle my tongue so my religion is worth something, and then I learned that I will love life and see good days if I keep my tongue from evil. It was hard to be so quiet with the taffy in my mouth, but it was very, very good, and I learned a lot, and so from now on I will try to be quieter.

BL (sarcastically) Whoopee, let's celebrate! Isabel's talking again. (perks up) Hey, I know how we can celebrate. Let's go buy her a piece of Laffy Taffy!

M Good idea. Let's go!

I Uh, guys, I don't think I need any more taffy, right now. Guys?

Appreciating the Way God Made You

(M, BL, and I)

M Have you noticed how tall Brother Paul is?

BL Of course! It's pretty hard to miss something like that.

I I wonder how long he was when he was born.

BL I heard he was born on January 27th, 28th, and 29th if that gives you any clue.

I Do you think he minds being so tall?

M Naw, everybody looks up to him! It's nice to be tall.

I Do you think Miss Vicki minds that her hair is sort of blond? Because you know what people say about blondes.

BL Hey, did you hear about the blonde that did a puzzle?

M From what I hear, that's pretty hard for blondes.

BL Right, but this one did it, and do you know why she was so proud she did it in 6 months?

I Why?

BL Cuz the box said "2 to 4 years"! Ha, Ha!

M I think Bro Paul & Miss Vicki are both pretty content with how God made 'em. They know their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit.

BL Yep, they do a lot of upkeep on them temples.

I They have to keep 'em exercised .

BL And Miss Vicki slaps a little paint on now and then.

M That's for the common good. I'm thankful I'm a monkey.

I Why?

M Cuz that's what I'm supposed to be!

BL I bet you there are some things that are not thankful for what they are.

I I think every creature can think of something to be thankful for.

M Yeah, let's sing that song , "If I were a butterfly, I'd thank you, Lord for giving me wings."?

I And if I were a robin in the tree, I'd thank you, Lord, that I could sing.

BL And if I were a buzzard overhead, I'd be so glad for everything dead.

I & M And I just thank you, Father, for making me, me!

M And if I were a kangaroo, you know I'd hop right up to you!

I And if I were a wiggly worm, I'd thank you, Lord, that I could squirm.

BL And if I were a slick stingray, I'd clear the beaches any day!

M & I And I just thank you, Father for making me, me.

M We really do need to thank the Lord because we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

I He knows whether He wants kids to be short or tall.

M We should be content and thankful for freckles or beauty marks.

BL Or smart, or blonde!

I And it is God who makes some people really smart while others have to work a little bit harder to understand things. But He knows what He's doing.

Feet

(M, BL, and I)

I _____ has beautiful feet!

BL What are you talking about? It can't be the _____ I know.

I Wait, I'll show you his shoe. (brings up shoe) This is the very shoe that goes around his beautiful foot. It's a size _____!

BL I bet it has a size _____ smell! Monkey, you'd better get up here and see this. Isabel has flipped out. She thinks _____ has beautiful feet.

M I think I know why she said that, BL.

BL Why, cuz she needs glasses?

M No, because the Bible says, "How beautiful... are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things."

I So I think _____ feet are beautiful because he goes all around preaching the gospel.

M Anyone who goes around telling the good news has got beautiful feet, pretty feet. The Bible says so.

BL Yeah, right! I bet that's in Hezekiah 4:2!

M In Romans 10:15 the Bible says, "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel."

I Really? Do any of these kids have pretty feet?

M Yeah, if they use their feet to take them to tell others about salvation.

BL Hey, everybody! Check your feet! This a "pretty foot" check.

M The Bible says something else about feet. It says every part of the body is important. The foot shouldn't say, "Because I am not the hand, I'm not a part of the body."

I Why does the Bible say that?

M Cuz some people think they're not important if they're can't be a pastor, or have lots of money, or sing real good.

I Oh, that is me. I cannot sing at all!

BL Yeah, you can! You can sing! It just sounds funny!

M Every part of the body is important, and every member of the church is important.

I But I don't understand why someone should think he or she isn't important. There are so many things for everyone to do.

M Oh, yes, every Christian needs to be busy using his gifts and talents for the Lord.

BL I know what feet are for. So if yer mad, you can trip somebody or kick'em in the back end!

M That reminds me, the Bible says God hates some feet.

I NO! I do not believe it.

M Proverbs says God hates feet that are swift in running to mischief.

BL Yeah, I saw this boy chasing a girl across the church and trying to baptize her with a coke.

I I wonder what God will do to him?

BL I don't think God'll have to do anything. The pastor caught him and skinned him alive!

M (pause) I wish I had beautiful feet!

I You do if you tell people about Jesus! Remember?

BL No you don't! You ain't got no feet. You're just a puppet!

Knees

(M, BL, and I)

M You remember what the Bible says about feet?

I Yeah, it says some people have got beautiful feet—if they use them to carry them to tell others about salvation.

BL Yep, and it says God hates same feet.

I It does not!

M Yeah it does.

I Oh. I forgot.

BL If you don't wash them for a week, everybody'll hate'em!

M God hates feet that are swift in running to mischief. The pastor does too.

I I know another thing the Bible says about feet.

M What?

I Every part of the body is important, even feet. And everyone in the church is necessary, and important—even if they're not leaders or rich or can't sing.

BL You can sing—funny!

I You're so mean! You'd better look out or a bear might get you.

BL Why?

M For making fun of somebody. When some boys made fun of Elisha for his bald head, two bears tore into forty-two of 'em.

BL I know something else about feet.

M What?

BL Yer 'spose to wash 'em.

I The Bible does not say that.

M Yes, it does! We' re supposed to wash each other's feet.

BL Stinkola!

I I never saw anybody do that.

M We're supposed to do all sorts of lowly things for others: shine their shoes, pick up trash, make their bed, pick up their dirty socks.

BL Clean the toilet?

I Change the baby! Clean up the dog mess off the sidewalk.

M Yeah, and that's the way to be great, Jesus said.

I I did not know that.

M The Bible says something about knees too,

BL Who cares? We ain't got no feet nor no knees,

I I'm glad; I think knees are ugly. I will say this poem about 'knees:

I think that I shall never see
A thing as ugly as a knee,

Besides, knees get arthritis,

BL I seen this boy knock the breath out of this kid.

M What's that got to do with knees?

BL He kneed him in the belly.

I I need some chocolate right now.

BL That ain't funny! You need to go on a diet!

M Here is one thing you need your knees for: to bow to Jesus and worship Him.

I Even the devil's gonna bow to Jesus someday, and he don't like that.

M Well everything and everybody were made by Jesus, so everybody ought to bow down to Him and worship Him.

I He's done a lot of nice things for us, too, and we ought to bow and thank Him.

M And we ought to bow and pray for the help we need, too,

I Now I wish I was a real nerson, even if I had to have knees.

BL Why?

I I'd love Jesus and bow to him.

M Hey, are you humans using your knees to do what they were made to do? Bowing to Jesus your maker?

I Hey, let's sing our song to help them remember.

BL Aw, I don't wanna sing no dumb song,

M Come on BL. I'll start, (to the tune of "Eatin' Goober Peas")

M "Knees, knees, knees, knees

I Falling on our knees

M We can worship Jesus

I Falling on our knees."

M The Bible says, "Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, and He will lift you up."

Eyes

(M, BL, and I)

I You know, _____ has such cute eyes!

BL Keep yer eyes off him, he's married!

I Don't you think he has such cute eyes? All in favor, say, "Aye,"
oppose, "No." The "Aye's" have it!

BL I was hoping his nose would win!

M The Bible says something about eyes.

BL What?

M The eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the
good.

I Can He even see me in my room when the door is shut?

M Yep.

I Even in the dark?

BL Girl, you better behave, cuz He's always watching!

M The Bible says something else about eyes.

BL What? You better not sin with your eyes?

M Yep! "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes."

BL That proves TV is in the Bible!

I I had a bad dream after I saw this man on TV come through a girl's
window and stab her.

BL It's your own fault. You didn't need to watch it!

M Yeah, remember this Bible verse, “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes.” One of the things God hates is having a proud look, haughty eyes. And “the eye that mocketh at his father and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.”

I Oh, that’s awful. Yuk!

M Then don’t mock your parents!

I Or roll your eyes at them.

M Right.

BL Yeah, when you roll your eyes, it gets dirt and grit all over ‘em!

I Yuk!

M You better turn away from sinning with your eyes. Hell is worse than cutting your eye out.

I Oh, my!

M Jesus said, “If your eye offends you, cut it out. It would be better to enter into life with only one eye, than to have two eyes and be cast into hell fire!”

BL Didn’t Jesus say something about a camel’s eye?

M No, Jesus said it’s hard for a rich person to be saved. It’s easier to get a camel through the eye of a needle than to get a rich man saved.

I Then we better not love money!

BL I knew a little girl who said it’s easier to poke a camel in the eye with a needle than to get a rich man saved.

M Here’s a good prayer to pray when you read your Bible: “Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy Law.”

I Jesus gave sight to a lot of blind people, didn’t He? And we can ask Him to open the eyes of our hearts.

M And you better turn from your sin and get saved right now!

BL What's that got to do with eyes.

M Cuz Jesus is gonna come suddenly, and the ones that are ready will be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and will be caught up to be with Jesus.

Tongue

(M, BL, and I)

I Oh, I wish that I had the gift of tongues.

BL Girl what you need is a bridle for the tongue you got.

M The Bible says a lot about the tongue and the mouth. "I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth." "Set a watch, O Lord before my mouth. Keep the door of my lips." "A Virtuous woman opens her mouth with wisdom and in her tongue is the law of kindness."

M The law of kindness is a law she makes that nothing comes out of her mouth that's not kind.

BL Some ladies would never get out of jail if there was a state law like that.

I What are some other sins of the mouth?

M Lying. All liars shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone.

BL Aw, just say, "Liars are fryers."

I You don't have to be so glad about it, BL!

BL Another one is cussing. Some people think that one doesn't count.

M The Bible says, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth."

I Arguing is another one.

BL Yep, girls are bad about that one.

I No, they're not!

BL See what I mean!

I Complaining is bad too.

BL Yeah, the complainers in the Bible got bitten by fiery snakes.

I You don't have to be so glad about it.

BL Talking back is another one that Isobel does all the time.

I I do not!

BL See what I mean?

I Well, you're spreading gossip; that's another one.

M The Bible says, "Let all things be done without murmuring and disputing." That means no complaining and no talking back.

BL I heard about this lady who came to the pastor to confess the sin of gossiping.

M That's good.

BL Yeah, she said, "Preacher, I'm just gonna lay my tongue on the altar." The pastor said, "I'm sorry, Ma'am, but our altar's not but 11 feet long."

M Oh, my. Being disrespectful is another sin of the tongue. "Railers shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

I I know another sin of the mouth.

BL What's that?

I A boy and a girl were in the corner kissing.

M Can you think of any more?

BL Yep, spitting. Here's a song for you, Isabel.

Ho, Isadora,
Don't spit on the floor-uh!
Use the cuspidora
That's what its for-uh.

I BL, you just did another one. Hurting my feelings is a sin of the mouth. You know I don't really spit.

M She's right, BL.

BL I don't care, I got another one for you: eating too much.

I Wow! With all these sins of the mouth, maybe I would be safer with a bridle.

M Yep, "He that hath knowledge spareth his words." Here's another verse about speaking. I'll sing it for you. "Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."

BL You need help with your singing, Monkey. It sounds awful. I'll show you how it's done on the next one.

A fool's voice is known by a multitude of words.

A fool, a fool, a fool.

A fool's is known by a multitude of words.

A fool, a fool, a fool.

Hey, how come they ain't clapping?

I Maybe because they don't know you're done yet.

M We're all done. We'd better get outta here! (All leave.)

Heart

(M, BL, and I)

I There are so many sins of the mouth! Why is it so hard to control the mouth?

M If your heart's right, it's not so hard to control your mouth. Whatever is in the heart comes out the mouth.

BL Like if you kick a slop bucket, you ain't gonna get no perfume out of the top. Slop's going to come shooting out.

M Right, so if you say dirty words, it shows you have a dirty heart. The Bible says, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

I So if some people say mean words like, "I don't care," it shows they have a mean heart?

BL I don't care.

M If they say kind words they have a kind heart.

I And if they say grouchy words, they have a grouchy heart. Like BL!

M Right.

BL I don't care. If they sweet words, they have a sweetheart! Ha!

I Do you have a sweetheart?

BL Well, um... er... uh, let's talk about something else.

M Our words show what kind of a heart we have.

I So if our hearts are right, it will be so very much easier to control our tongues.

M That's why the Bible says, "Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life."

BL Yeah, if you dump all the slop out of the slop bucket and then you wash it out, no more slop will come out of the bucket.

M Yeah, that's why David prayed after his terrible sins, "Create in me a clean heart, O God."

I Then the heart must be the most important thing.

M Right, man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart.

I I always notice the people's clothes, but their attitude is even more important.

BL Oh yeah, a lot of people pretend to be good Christians but have wicked hearts. They play like they love God, but they don't really give a rip. They are helping the devil!

M God told us to love Him from the heart. He said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart."

I It's so sad that there are fakes and hypocrites who cause so many problems, before people find out what they are really like.

BL I like them!

M God's Word can fix our hearts. "Thy word have I hid in my heart."

I Our hearts need a lot of fixing!

BL You ain't really got a heart; you're just a puppet.

I If I did, I'd love Jesus with all my heart.

M (to audience) But if you have a heart, let Jesus cleanse it and fix it. I wish I was a real person, too. I'd love Jesus with all my heart!

BL What about all those sins from your sinful heart if you were a real person?

M Oh, I'd ask Jesus to clean up my sinful heart. He'd help me love others and love God with all my heart.

Clouds

(M, BL, and I)

I & M (looking up at the clouds)

BL What are you two doing?

I We're looking up at the clouds.

M We're thinking about Jesus coming back in the clouds.

BL Aw, you might get an eye full of something if a bird flies over. What are you talking about?

I Jesus said He'd come back in the clouds.

M And he said to watch and be ready.

BL So are you two gonna stand here till He comes? Your heads are in the clouds!

M No, but let's talk about clouds and see if there are any other lessons we can learn from clouds.

I When was the first time clouds were in the Bible?

BL I know! It was with Adam.

I What do you mean?

BL When he first saw Eve, he was on cloud nine!

M Clouds were important to the Israelites. God led them by a pillar of fire in the night and a pillar of cloud in the daytime.

I And we should still follow God like that, going when He wants us to go, and stopping when He wants us to stop.

M He probably won't guide you with a cloud, but you can ask Him to lead you in a plain path. That's a Bible prayer.

I You can ask God to lead you in a plain path?

M Yep, Psalm 27:11, “Lead me in a plain path.”

I I’m going to try to remember that prayer!

M God Himself appeared in a cloud.

BL Yep, and He about scared the socks off ‘em, too.

I Oh, you mean on top of Mt. Sinai, when the whole mountain shook, and there was thunder and lightning and everything!

M Yep, so we know that Jesus went back to heaven in a cloud, He’ll return in the clouds, the Israelites were led by a cloud, and God appeared in a cloud.

I One time God showed a little cloud to Elijah like a promise that it would rain.

BL Ol’ Elijah just kept praying ‘til God answered and sent rain. I hate rain.

I You are supposed to be thankful, remember?

M The Bible says something else about clouds. God says, “I have blotted out your sins like a thick cloud.” (Sing song.) “God has blotted them out.”

I How does He blot out our sins?

M It’s like when it’s real cloudy and you can’t even see the sun, it’s so hidden. And God has blotted out the sins of the saved people so you can’t tell where they are.

I There are so many lessons to remember on cloudy days!

BL Like, it might rain; I hate rain.

M N0, what Bible lesson should you remember?

I I am forgetting—my memory is cloudy!

M When you see thick clouds...

I Oh yes, God blots out our sins like with a thick cloud.

M When you see dark stormy clouds

BL It's gonna rain; I hate rain.

I No, God is holy; He came down on Mt Sinai in thick clouds and with thunder and lightning.

BL He makes the rain, I hate rain.

I He went up in a cloud, and He'll come back in a cloud.

BL Don't forget about Adam being on cloud nine when he saw Eve.

M And God guided Israel by a cloud.

I And I must remember to ask God to lead me in plain path, like it says in Psalm 27:11!

BL And a good wife will put you on cloud nine. Ha, ha, Bro. Paul made me say that.

I Bro. Paul, did you? (shocked)

BL Hey! Look what those two are doing! Stop that! I'm going to come chaperon you two. (This last part is appropriate if the two puppeteers are married—to each other!)

Rocks

(M, BL, and I)

I Did you know that Jesus said that if the children didn't praise God, the rocks would sing praises to Him.

BL Is that in the Bible?

M Yeah, Jesus said it!

BL The rocks will praise God? Hey! A rock concert! Ha! Ha!

I (with rock in hand) Rocks are very important in the Bible.

M Let's see how many things we can learn from rocks.

BL I know one!

M OK

BL Don't get drunk.

I What does that have to do with rocks?

BL Thou shalt not get stoned!

M The Bible does talk about being stoned.

I Oh, it was so horrible!

M Yep! When someone's kids were stubborn and rebellious, the people were supposed to throw rocks at 'em till they died.

BL Sounds pretty violent!

M People need to understand how bad sin is!

I So when you see a rock remember to praise God, so the rocks don't cry out, and obey your parents!

BL And don't get stoned drunk!

I And what other lesson?

M Don't have a hard stony heart.

I Is that like being hard headed?

M Yep. It means you just don't care.

I BL doesn't care.

BL I don't care!

M If you're like BL ask God to give you a tender heart—a heart of flesh instead of a stony heart.

BL I know something about a rock.

M What?

BL When Moses lost his temper he hit the rock with his rod.

M Yeah, the people got him mad, and he lost his temper and never did get to go into the Promise Land.

I I better not get mad and lose my temper.

BL Like you always do?

I Oh stop! You mean thing! (starts to hit BL) Oops! I forgot and almost lost my temper already!

M That reminds me of another lesson. If you hear God's Word and obey it, you're like the wise man who built his house on the rock.

BL But if you hear but don't obey you're pretty dumb!

I And the people who won't obey God will someday call for the rocks and mountains to fall on them.

BL What?

M Yeah, that's right. The people who don't turn from their sin will someday wish they could hide from God and His anger. They'll call for the rocks and the mountains to fall on them to hide them from the anger of the Lord.

BL Man! That's terrible! I wouldn't want no rocks falling on me!

M That's wimpy compared to a lake of fire forever!

BL Oh, I guess so.

I So when I see a rock I'll remember:

- Praise God all the time.
- Obey; disobedient people used to get stoned.
- Don't have a hard, stony heart.
- Don't get mad, like Moses did when he hit the rock.
- Hear and obey, so you'll be like the wise man who built his house on the rock.
- People who are not ready for the Lord to come will call for the rocks and mountains to fall on them.

BL (interrupts) And don't get stoned drunk. And don't get stoned on drugs. And I've got one more Bible song about ROCKS.

M What? Don't get stoned?

BL No, "Rock a bye baby in the tree top."

I I'm going to stone you!

(BL flees with Isobel in pursuit).

Trees

(M, BL, and I)

I I can't remember what the last puppet show was about.

M Don't you remember, Isabel?

I I wish I could eat some food to make me smarter.

M God made a special fruit one time that would make people smart in one way.

I How wonderful! What kind of fruit was it?

M It was the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

BL Hey, hey! I like this story. This is the one that got all the humans in the world to sin.

M Not all humans. Jesus never sinned.

BL Nope, but He ended up nailed to a tree.

I Oh, BL, He did not end there. He came back to life.

M Yes, and now He has another tree for us in heaven—the tree of life. When we eat of that tree we'll live forever.

I Wow! That will be nice.

BL Is that all you two can talk about—trees?

I There are many different stories about trees in the Bible.

M Like the one about King David's son, Absalom, who rebelled and grew his hair long and ended up getting his head caught in a tree.

BL That's funny! He thought he was so smart, but he ended up swinging from his hair.

I I think that's sad. He died from that, you know.

BL I know, ha, ha.

M He dishonored his father, and died early. If you honor your parents, you'll live longer. God promised that.

I I think a nicer tree story is about that cute little man, Zacchaeus, who climbed up in the tree to see Jesus.

M He was smart; we should all try to get close to Jesus.

BL Aw, that ain't a good story. It would be better if Zacchaeus fell out of the tree.

M Jesus gave three lessons from trees: The first one is that you can tell when He's coming back the same way a fig tree will tell you that summer is coming.

BL When the leaves come out, you know that summer is near.

I And when you see the signs Jesus said would happen, you can tell Jesus is about to come. And if you know Jesus is coming you ought to get ready! But how do you get ready for Jesus?

M You make sure you are saved, and you try to get other people saved.

I Jesus likes that.

BL Aw, it's not important to get people saved.

M (gets hysterical) Yes it is! Jesus said every tree that doesn't have fruit shall be cut down and thrown in the fire.

I That sounds scary!

M It is. People who don't turn from their sinful way are going to be cast into the lake of fire.

BL (sarcastically) Aw, that's too bad. Ha, ha.

M God also said not to cut down trees that bear fruit.

I That is good; I like apples.

BL You dummy. God don't care about no apples. He always has some other lesson in mind when he says stuff like that.

M Well, it is smart to save fruit trees, but you're right, God is teaching a lesson: He wants people who bring forth fruit to be treated special.

BL Yeah, like they need special education. You ain't never gonna get rich running around telling people about Jesus. So it's dumb.

M The Bible says, "He that winneth souls is wise" and "their reward will be great in heaven."

I So people who win others to Jesus are smart!

BL I don't care.

I And they will get rich—in God's kingdom!

BL I don't care.

M We learned eight lessons about trees today.

BL Naw, I bet nobody was listening.

I I was. I remember about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

BL Even I remember about that dude, Absalom, swinging by his hair. If you're rebellious, you'll probably die early.

I And I remember the cute little man who climbed up the tree to see Jesus. You'd better do whatever it takes to get to Jesus!

M And our Lord Jesus was nailed to a tree.

I And Jesus said that when you see leaves you can tell summer is near; so you can tell when Jesus is coming back by the signs that He told us would happen.

M And trees that don't bring forth fruit will be cast into the fire. So people who do not start obeying God will go to hell.

BL I like that part.

I And trees that do bring forth fruit are special and good. So people who are winning others to Jesus should be honored and treated special!

BL Special education.

I I have a little song about trees. I'll go get it.

BL I'm getting out of here. She sings awful.

I Here it is: (to the tune of "Eatin' Goober Peas")

Trees, trees, trees, trees,
God has made the trees!
We can learn a bunch of stuff
By looking at the trees.

M What lesson are you going to think of when you go out of here and see a tree?

Rain

(M, BL, and I)

I Good morning everyone! Today we're going to learn about ...

BL (enters doing rain dance) Boom, boom, boom...

I What are you doing?

BL Can't you tell? This is a rain dance.

I A rain dance? But, BL, the other day you said you hated rain.

BL Yeah, well now I like it.

I That's good; rain is a blessing from God. How did you learn to like it?

BL Cuz I like it if someone is all dressed up in white clothes and a car drives by and hits a puddle and splashes mud all over them. Ha, ha!

I That's awful!

BL And I like it when when people get depressed and grouchy because of the weather. That's why I'm doing a rain dance right now.

M I'll bet you liked it when God rained fire on the prophets of Baal.

BL Those guys were on my side. They were getting people to worship a statue instead of God. God really showed His power that time.

M Yeah, He stopped the rain for three and a half years.

BL I like that! Imagine all the stuff that died! Ha, ha!

I God was teaching the people to obey Him and to come to Him for rain. They worshipped the idols, so God stopped the rain. When they got right and Elijah prayed, God sent the rain again.

M First Elijah prayed down fire from heaven to show that the Lord is God. Baal was just a fake god.

I Then the people believed in the true God, so Elijah prayed for rain, and God sent it.

M (pause) Another time God sent enough rain to cover the whole earth.

BL Yeah, just when things were getting fun, too.

I Everyone was very wicked in the time of Noah. God made it rain for 40 days and 40 nights to punish them.

M The flood destroyed everything that breathed on the whole earth!

BL One time it rained longer than that.

M When?

BL The Bible says that Manasseh reigned for 55 years.

I That's not the same kind of rain.

M Someday God's gonna rain fire on the earth to punish sinners. "On the wicked he will rain fire...."

BL Ha, ha! It would be fun to watch those people run around trying to get away from the fire!

I What about you, BL?

BL Ahem, let's talk about something else.

M The rain reminds me that God is kind to the good and to the bad.

BL Whatcha talking about?

I I thought God was only nice to good people.

BL Naw, I know a mean ole drunk and his lawn got rained on, too.

M God is kind to both. "He sends rain on the just and on the unjust." So we should be like our Heavenly Father and be kind to the good and to the bad.

I Wow we've learned a lot about rain. So when it rains, we can remember lots of lessons.

BL Yep, ole Elijah prayed and stopped the rain for three and a half years, then he prayed, and it rained fire. Then he prayed, and finally it rained rain again.

I So the rain reminds us that God answers prayer!

M And God sent the great flood to punish sinners.

I So when it rains, we can remember that God will punish sinners like He did at the Great Flood!

M And He sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. He's kind to the good and the bad.

I So when it rains, we can remember to be kind to the unthankful!

M And someday God will rain fire on the earth.

I So we'd better turn away from our sinful ways now, so we'll be ready for the Lord's return!

BL Now do you two want to learn a rain dance? Boom, boom...

M Praying will do more good than dancing like that. Goodbye!

Birds

(M, BL, and I)

BL Did you hear about the scientist that could bring a statue to life?

I Really?

M Are you joking or lying?

BL Yeah, he brought a statue of George Washington to life! Yeah, you know the first thing George Washington said?

I What?

BL I'm gonna shoot me about a million pigeons!

M (pause) That's a funny bird story, BL. The Bible has some lessons about birds.

I Bro. Paul and Miss Vicki saw a bunch of sea gulls' nests in the state of Maine.

M Yeah, I heard. Some had eggs and some had babies.

I I bet they were cute!

M Yeah, and they teach a lesson about following Jesus.

I What is that? If you believe on Jesus some day you'll fly away.

M No, another one. Jesus said, "Foxes have holes and birds have nests, but the Son of man does not have a place to lay his head."

BL You mean Jesus didn't even have a house?

M No, not on earth.

BL Not even a room? Or a bed?

M No, and if we follow Him, we'll do it even if we don't have nice things or a house or a room or a bed.

BL Man, I wouldn't follow Jesus.

I I would! I think God would take care of me even if I did not have anything.

M Yep, He does! Jesus said that God even feeds the birds, and if a sparrow falls He's there with it, and He'll surely take care of you. People are worth more than a lot of sparrows.

I That's two lessons about birds.

M Right. Birds have nests, but Jesus didn't even have a place to lay His head. So if we're gonna follow Him, we'll do it even if we don't have nice stuff. The other lesson is that if God feeds the birds, He'll certainly feed us! If we'll seek first His kingdom, He'll give us the food and clothes we need.

BL I know a Bible verse about birds, "Birds of a feather all flock together."

M That's not a Bible verse. But the Bible does tell us not to hang around sinners.

BL Well, I was walking along with this blonde, and I said, "See that dead bird?" She looked up in the sky and said, "Where?"

M (pause) God might even let the birds feed you. Ravens fed Elijah.

BL Yuck, you mean he ate roasted raven.

I No, they brought Elijah bread and meat every morning and evening.

BL Sausage biscuits every morning and hamburgers every night!

M That sounds pretty good.

I So the lesson is: if you don't trust God to take care, (pause) you don't have bird brains!

Getting Old

(M, BL, and I)

I Oh, you know, I dread getting old!

BL Yeah! You get wrinkled, stooped, and can't half see, or hear! Here's a poem about getting old: (slowly)

Beauty is but skin deep;
Ugly is to the bone. (pause)
Beauty soon will fade away,
But ugly holds her own!

M (pause) But getting old ain't all bad. When you getting old, maybe you'll finally get some sense!

BL Now hush! I got 'em all thinkin' ole fogies don't know nothin'!

M BL, you know about that king that lost most of his kingdom because he listened to the young men instead of listening to the old men.

I Who was that?

M Rehoboam...

BL I know that, but don't tell 'em! Beelzebub here likes to teach everybody to disrespect old people. Call y' dad y' old man. Call y' mom y' old lady.

M The Bible says the hoary head is a crown of glory.

I What is a hoary head?

M It's a white head.

I Oooh, like a zit!

M No, an old person with white hair!

BL I wish you'd just quit tellin' them what the Bible says!

M I ain't gonna do it! It says, "The beauty of old men is the gray head."

I I always thought everybody made fun of being old and having gray hair.

M They do, if they don't know any better. But really, white hair is a crown of glory, and "The beauty of old men is the gray head." And besides the Bible says, "You younger, submit yourselves to the elder."

I You mean, younger people are supposed to give in to older people?

M That's what the Bible says.

I I did not know that!

BL I can't take this any more! I'm gettin' outta here! (leaves)

M He's too dumb to learn!

I Oh, I need to start respecting older people. I accidentally called a woman an old lady. I was so embarrassed, and I was trying to apologize and get out of it! Now I see that being old is something to honor.

Old Man (appears)

M (bows, then stands) How are you? (to Isabel) The Bible says, "Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honor the face of the old man."

I I'm standing as tall as I can go! Doesn't it also say, "Despise not thy mother when she is old"?

Old Man That's right!

M Anything you want to teach us, Sir?

OM "Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath." And, if you honor your parents, you'll live longer, God promised.

I What was it like when you were a boy?

Old Man

- I remember when they taught the Bible in the public schools!

- I remember when the problems at school were running in the halls and chewing gum, not drugs and killings.
- I remember when, if you called yourself a Christian, people expected you to live honest and right.
- I remember when divorce was wrong, and divorcing and remarrying was adultery, like the Bible says.
- I remember when younger people respected older people.
- I remember when you could buy a house for 3 or 4 thousand dollars and coke for a nickel.
- I remember when families had lots of children.
- I remember when fathers were in charge.
- I remember when moms were keepers at home, like the Bible says.
- I remember when, if I got a spanking at school, I really got one at home!

M We've got computers and space shuttles but are too dumb to stop AIDS!

OM The Word of God says that people who live in sexual sins are worthy of **death** (Romans 1:29-32). If they hadda executed a few of them living in sexual sin 30 or 40 years ago that had AIDS, when AIDS first broke out, they might have saved the lives of 40 MILLION people who have died of AIDS or are dying of AIDS now.

I I don't think they have the sense now or the courage to do it.

Just for Girls

(M, BL, and I)

I This puppet show is just for girls.

M I think the boys could get a lot out of it too.

BL Naw, it's dumb. I think we should all just go home and not listen to anything about the Bible.

I (sighs)

BL Now what's the matter with you?

M You sound sad. Is there anything we can help with, Isabel?

I Oh, I'm just wondering about things a girl wonders about. Like will I ever get married...

BL Ain't likely!

I And how can I make boys like me...

BL You can't!

I And how should I act. You know, a girl gets lots of advice on how to act. Sometimes people say, "You need to have an air of mystery" so I try to be very serious and mysterious, but then someone says, "You need to be lots of fun," so I try to be happy and fun, but then I lose my air of mystery.

BL I got some advice for you, give it up!

M You know who should know the most about women in the Bible—Solomon. He had 1000 wives!

BL Man, I bet he NEVER had a turn on the telephone!

I He must have had all different kinds of wives.

BL He must've gotten one as a souvenir from every trip he ever took.

M He must have had fat wives and skinny wives, and tall wives and short wives, and smart wives and blonde wives.

BL Hey, did you hear about that blonde that wanted to prove she wasn't so dumb? Yeah, she memorized the capital of every state. So her boss said, "OK, what's the capital of Wyoming?" She said, "Wait, I know it... I memorized all of them! Blondes aren't that dumb. Um... What is it? Don't tell me. The capital of Wyoming... I GOT IT! IT'S "W"!"

I (pause) Solomon must have had fun wives AND mysterious wives.

M Yep, and God gave him a special gift of wisdom.

BL He would have needed it to organize all them dames: I can hear 'em now, "You're hogging the mirror! It's my turn! I've been waiting in line for 4 hours!" Can you imagine all the hose on the bathroom hanger! One thousand pairs of panty hose!

M After knowing all those women, he was inspired by God to write down what the best woman is like.

I Oh, tell us! What does it say?

M The best woman is trustworthy, honest, and a hard worker.

I Does she have an air of mystery?

M Well, she works so hard that she gets up in the night. So maybe people wonder what she's doing.

I Is she fun?

M It says, "In her mouth is the law of kindness." It's always more fun to be around people that are kind!

I Wow! Now I know how God wants a girl to act. I think I should go read about it in Proverbs 31.

M We could just ask (name a lady in the audience) to quote it for us, as I'm sure she has it memorized.

"I Wanna Go Back"

(M, BL, I, and FB)

"But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire" (2 Peter 2:22).

I Hurry up, you guys! I have a pet to show you!

BL What is it, a monkey?

M She better not have a monkey.

I I'll let you guess. It's pink and cute and cuddly.

BL I know, it's a lobster.

I BL, you may want to cuddle with a lobster, but I sure don't. It's a cute, little pig.

BL Well, you may want to cuddle with a pig, but I sure don't. You call that thing little?!

Francis Bacon I wanna go back! I wanna go back!

M What's his name? Babe? Wilber?

FB No, my name is Francis Bacon, and I just wanna go back!

I Let me tell you where I found him. This poor little piggy was in a terrible place. I felt so sorry for him! He was in a grungy little box tipped over sideways in a whole field of mud. The poor little guy had nothing to eat except some brown stuff that made my tummy do the back-flip when I smelled it.

M So you saved the poor little guy?

I I mustered all my courage and put him in a pillowcase so I could take him home and wash him up.

FB I just wanna go back!

I I popped him into a big bathtub full of my nicest bubble bath, and I just know he feels so nice after all that.

FB The thing I'd really like to do is to get back to my nice home! I would feel good.

BL He don't want want your bath tub and bubbles and perfume! He loves to be down in the mud and manure!

I You can't be serious, BL, nobody wants to be smelly and filthy!

FB I just wanna go back!

I (mouth hangs in surprise)

M I think BL is right, Isabel. It does sound like Francis Bacon wants to go back.

I But, Francis, you look so much better! I'll feed you chocolate and ice cream.

FB I just wanna go back. I like pig slop. I like mud! It feels good. Let me go back. Oink! (escapes)

I He left! I don't believe it! How could anyone want to live like that? It's so dirty and gross and terrible.

BL Well, he is a pig, you know.

M Yep, there are people like that, too. "But it is happened unto them, according to the true proverb, "The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."

I You mean there are people who like to live in yucky places like that with bad food and terrible smells?

M Mostly what I mean is there are people who love their sinful ways and go back to their own sins whenever they get a chance. You just read 2 Peter 2 sometime. It's a scary chapter for people who start out following Jesus and then turn back to their dirty, rotten sins. The Bible says it would

be better for them not to even know the right way, than to know it and turn back away from it.

I Why would anyone go back to serving the Devil, after they know how good God is?

BL Aw, they want the freedom that the Devil gives. He don't have no lists of do's and don't's.

M Yep, the Bible says the Devil promises liberty, but people don't know they get to be slaves to the sins they want to do.

BL Ha, ha! Yep, like people who think they are free to drink all the alcohol they want. Next thing they know, they can't get away from the stuff. They ruin their health, their reputation, their family. They waste their money and lose their jobs. They know they're in trouble, but they go right back to it! They're slaves to the bottle! It's the same with other sins, too! Ha, ha! It's a great system.

I I'm so sad that Francis went back to the mud.

M It doesn't make the Lord too happy when people turn away from following Him, and go after the filth and evil of the world.

The Chameleon

(I, BL, M, H, C)

I Hey, everybody! I've got a new pet!

BL Did you steal it?

I No, I didn't. I learned, "Be sure your sin will find you out."

M How's your pig doing?

I He hated being clean. He loved being in the mud and poo poo in his pen. I was so sad; he kept getting so filthy.

BL Ha! He's a PIG.

M And some people love their sins. They've never repented and they want to keep on in their lust, or drugs, or bitter attitudes, or greediness, or lies!

BL Well, they're PIGS!

M What's your new pet?

BL I hope you made a better choice this time!

I I hope so! He was imported all the way from Africa.

M Can we see him?

I Here he is! (Chameleon appears.)

BL That's one ugly monster!

M That's a chameleon. That's right, they live in Africa. Can this one change his color to what he's on, like to green or gray?

I No, this one's different. He talks and acts differently according to whom he's with.

C (Chameleon leaves.)

BL He left!

I I think you hurt his feelings.

BL Can I play with him?

I Sure! (All leave. BL and C appear.)

BL Isn't this a stupid camp (or church or VBS)! I hate those kids. It's boring! I wanna watch an R rated movie!

C This place is retarded! Everybody I saw were a bunch of dorks! I've got an X rated movie we can watch.

BL Yeah, that's good. Let's go watch it!

C Yeah!

(Hinkley appears.)

BL Hey, there's Mrs. Hinkley. She's so stuck up!

C She wears that fox skin thing around her neck sometimes, but she shore ain't no fox!

BL That's for sure!

C Yeah!

BL Let's get outta here!

C Yeah! (They leave.)

H What was that horrible creature with BL? (Chameleon reappears.) That BL is so disgusting.

C Yeah! He is so uncouth.

H He is so crude!

C Yeah! (Monkey appears.)

H Oh, there's the monkey! And he's so uncultured!

C Yeah! He's so uncultured!

H I do not think I had better remain here.

C Yeah! I either! (They leave. Monkey and Chameleon appear.)

M Well, if this hasn't been the best week of camp! (or best church)

C Yeah! I've been lovin' every minute of it!

M I like how everybody loves each other!

C Yeah! Ain't God given us a wonderful spirit of unity. There's no place I'd rather be in the whole world!

M This week has been a blessing!

C Yeah! Hasn't it though! (Monkey leaves.) Now, where's BL? I've got that X rated movie! But we can't watch it in this dumb place! (C leaves.)

I (Isabel and Monkey appear.) I don't know which was worse—the pig or the chameleon! He copies everyone he's with. He's afraid to stand on his own two feet. He's afraid to be different.

M The Bible says, "The fear of man brings a snare, but whoso puts his trust in the Lord will be safe." Some folks can't believe on Jesus, 'cause they're so concerned about what others will think. Jesus said, "How can you believe, which receive honor one of another, and seek not the honor that comes from God only?" (John 5:44). And the Bible says a double minded man can't get nothing from the Lord.

I That's pretty scary!

M And the fearful, or cowards, are going to be cast into the Lake of Fire, it says in Revelation 21:8.

I I sure don't want to be like that chameleon!

Babies

(M, BL, and I)

I I just love babies!

BL How can you love babies? They smell terrible, and all they say is "Wah, wah, wah."

I Oh, but they are so cute and cuddly and precious. They only say "Wah, wah, wah" when they have a good reason, like if they're hungry or something like that.

M Yeah, and the Bible tells us to be like babies.

BL Hey now, now you're talking my language. Babies got the good life. They get to just lie around and get waited on hand and foot.

M No, we're supposed to be like them in the way they say "Wah, wah, wah." (BL & I both let their mouths hang open with shock.)

I Monkey, are you kidding?

M Nope. We don't really have to say that, but we are supposed to want the word of God enough to cry for it.

BL What are you talking about?

M The Bible says, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby." Babies will kick and scream when they get hungry and want their milk.

I And we're supposed to want the Word of God like that? Wow!

BL Oh great! That's just what we need—a bunch of big people blubbering so they get to know the Bible!

I I don't think they actually have to go boo-hoo. Christians are supposed to want it really bad, though.

M New Christians are like babies in other ways too. They don't just know everything all at once. Older Christians have to take care of them and teach them things.

BL Do they have to change their diapers? Ha, ha.

I Well, baby Christians do make messes sometimes, and older Christians have to help them clean up.

M (pause) Christians also have a family resemblance.

BL What do you mean?

M Kids look sort of like their parents.

BL Sometimes that's good. Sometimes it's not so good!

I So, if you're born again and you're God's child, you'll look like your Heavenly Father?

M Yep, in the way you act.

I Could you give us an example?

M OK. The Bible says, "Love is of God, and everyone that loves is born of God."

BL I'm glad its not a resemblance in the face, cuz I know some Christians I don't want to look like. (pause) Man, some of those teachers out there looked kind of mad when I said that. I'm getting out of here.

I I don't think BL's in too much danger of looking like a Christian.

M You're right! He doesn't have any family resemblance. He doesn't obey the Lord, and he is unloving. The Bible says that the way you can tell if you are saved is if you love others. It says, "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren."

I I've seen some people this week that did look like they were Christians, cuz they are really loving. I hope we meet some more! Bye, bye.

Gluttony

(M, BL, and I)

BL Man, I ain't much for learning them Mexican words, but I'll tell you one thing, them dudes can cook!!!

I Oh, I think we finally found something we can agree on!

M Where did you go, BL?

BL Taco Ding dong or one of them places. Wait'l you hear what I ate.

I (Holding nose) Let me guess, onions.

BL Yep, I had me 16 tortillas and 4 fajitas (He pronounces "tortillas" and "fajitas" the way they look.)

I (She pronounces them right.) You mean 16 tortillas and 4 fajitas. Sixteen tortillas!!!! Wow, you must have a tummy ache!!!

BL Yep, but it ain't too bad. I ate more than that before. Yep, a man's got to do what a man's got to do.

M Does a man have to eat too much? I'm glad I'm a monkey.

BL Aw; don't be a killjoy. Next you'll be telling me there's a Bible verse that says I shouldn't eat so much.

I The Bible says, "Whether therefore ye eat or drink or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

M Yes, and it does not glorify God to be a glutton. He wants His people to be temperate and to have self-control.

BL It can't mean that!

M Why?

BL Cuz I seen a preacher that was fat as a hog! And plenty of church workers are fat ladies. You oughta see 'em at a church supper waddling around stuffing themselves. Ha ha!

M I know that. But the Bible says that the people whose god is their belly are going to Hell. "Their end is destruction," it says in Philippians 3:19.

I I did not know that.

M Yep and the Bible calls some people "slow bellies." The Lord says to rebuke them sharply in Titus 1:13.

BL Sounds like it means lazy gluttons.

M Yep.

I I do not see many big fat people in Mexico and Guatemala.

BL Well, you ain't gonna be a fat hog if all you can afford is rice and beans.

I Many people in other countries are skinny until they come to live in the United States.

M So we ought to be thankful for all the good stuff we've got to eat and enjoy it. But not overdo it.

BL Go ahead! Be a fat hog!

I I got a song to sing.

BL Can I sing, too?

M Sure! I'd rather hear you sing than eat! (pause) I've already heard you eat.

I (Sings to the tune of "The Poochy Lip")

The poochy gut will get you if you don't watch out.

The poochy gut will get you if you just pig out.

So take this little tip

Control what goes in your lip

And chase away the poochy gut disease.

BL I'd rather just have fun and be a glutton:

M It sounds like a ton of fun to tote around 45 extra pounds of blubber everywhere you go.

I Or have people behind your back say, “That's disgusting!”

M Or to drop dead with a massive heart attack 20 years early!

I Really fun for your family!

M Like a lot of fat people do. You need to just get it settled that if you're gonna follow Jesus, you've gotta deny yourself, and that includes harmful, sinful overeating!

Missionary Series – Monday

Part One in a Five Part Series

(M, I, and BL)

Isabel It's so nice to be in Bible School (Camp or Church)! I just love to hear the Word of God. ,

Monkey Yeah, but we have to do more than hear it; we have to do what it says. "Be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only...."

BL Aw, you don't have to do it. It's not important.

M Yes, it is!!! (hysterically) It says if you don't do it you're just deceiving your own self.

BL Heh, heh. I like to deceive people. I got a bunch of people thinking they're saved, but they're really not. I can tell because they don't ever obey the Bible. They've deceived themselves.

M Here's a verse we'd better pay attention to: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

I (meditatively) "But ye shall receive power." Hey, Monkey, how do you get power?

BL Call the electric company.

I I didn't ask you.

M You get power when the Holy Ghost comes upon you.

I How does that happen?

M When you get saved the Holy Spirit comes to live in you. And you can be *filled* with the Spirit if you'll ask the Father. Jesus said, "How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?"

BL Well, Isabelly, what are you gonna do, go buy a plane ticket to Jerusalem?

I Oh, yes! I want to obey the Great Commission, so then I need to get a plane ticket, and pack my suitcase, and get someone to watch the dog, and get my hair done, and get a passport, and ...oh, my!

BL What now?

I Do you think I'll have to get a shot? I'm so scared to get a shot! I'm not sure I can go if I have to get a shot.

BL Ha, ha! Some witness yer gonna be. You'll say, "Hello, I've got the power of the Holy Ghost, but I'm too chicken to get a shot."

M Isabel, Jesus was talking to His disciples who were in Jerusalem at the time.

BL Yer off the hook, Isabelly. That stuff's just for those Bible people, not for us now a days.

M No, BL, that's a command for all Jesus' disciples. His disciples were in Jerusalem so He wanted them to start right where they were.

I Oh! So Jesus wants us to be good witnesses right here in _____!

BL Oh, dandy! (sarcastically) And I was just getting excited about the idea of Isabel going off to Jerusalem and leaving us with a little peace and quiet around here.

I No, I'm going to obey Jesus and start right where I am. How should I start, Monkey?

M There's so much we can do!

1. Talk to neighbors about Jesus.
2. Give out tracts.
3. Help widows with their yard work.
4. Give gifts to orphans that need things.
5. Help in the church.
6. Help on a bus route.
7. Invite people to Sunday School.

8. Sing and praise the Lord at church.
9. Give to missionaries.

BL Man, if someone did all that stuff, he wouldn't have time to earn a living.

M That's OK. Jesus said to seek first His kingdom, and all these things shall be added unto you. He'll take care of you if you serve Him.

I But Monkey, I don't know if I've got enough faith.

BL Yeah, ol' Isabelly's afraid to get a shot.

M Jesus said God would take care of people who only have a little faith! He said, "Shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?"

I I'm ready then, let's go be witnesses in our Jerusalem here.

BL You two make me tired. I'm going to bed.

M Jesus is pleased when we're obedient to Him. Wait for me, Isabel!

Missionary Series – Tuesday

(M, I, and BL)

BL Man, that Isabel acts like you stuck pins in her since you talked to her yesterday.

(Isabel dashes by in the back with a tract.)

M Yes, she's being a good witness right here in her Jerusalem,

I Good Morning, did I give you a tract, BL? You can really use this. You need it.

BL Isabelly, I've got a trash can full of them, and I don't want any more.

I OK, BL, but remember God loves you and so do I. (races off)

BL You see that? That girl is driving me crazy! She is so dumb. She's wasting her time.

M It's not dumb; she's trying to obey Jesus' commands.

BL I'll give you 10 good reasons why it is dumb! The first one is that people don't need to be saved anyway; they'll be just fine.

M No, they won't! They'll be going to the Lake of Fire! Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me."

BL And the next reason is that poor ol' Isabelly will get too tired. And the third reason is she ain't smart enough.

I I heard that, Mr. BL. I'll have you know that the Bible says that not many wise are called to serve Jesus anyway, so God can use foolish things like me.

M That's right! And if she gets tired Jesus says, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

BL Hey, man, these are good reasons. The fourth one is that she shouldn't run around bothering innocent people.

I A lot of people really want to know how to get to heaven.

M I think the Lake of Fire would be a lot more of a bother to them.

BL Aw, people don't understand that stuff anyway. It takes years before they'd be good for anything.

M The Bible says they have to become like little children and believe.

BL And Isabelly, what would yer mama say if she knew you were talking to strangers?

M Isabel's mom would be glad she is using the big mouth she was given.

I (Isabel nods in agreement then looks at Monkey in shock.) MONKEY!

BL And ol' Isabelly probably forgets and tries to tell people about the Lord with food in her mouth.

I Is that your seventh reason?

BL Yep, and the eighth reason she shouldn't witness is that maybe they're deaf.

I I check on things like that!

BL Do you know sign language?

I A little bit, but my right hand doesn't work so good.

BL The ninth reason not to be a witness is she'll wear out shoe leather with all that walking around.

M BL, she doesn't have any shoes.

BL I'm talking about the shoes of the people trying to get away from her. The tenth reason is that she looks terrible in red.

I What does that have to do with anything?

BL You might talk to someone and get embarrassed and turn red, and then you'd look terrible.

M BL, why do you care if Isabel's a good witness?

BL Oh, I hate them chaps. Oops, I mean I hate chap stick (spit). I must have got some on my lips. (whispers) What are you trying to get me to do, Monkey, spill the beans on how much I hate people? I want 'em all to go to the Lake of Fire.

M I think you've already let them know, BL, there's a microphone in this puppet stage.

BL There is? Well, heh, heh, what may have sounded like "I hate people," was really, "I hate steeples." I get nervous they're gonna fall on me. I'm gettin' outta here. (leaves)

I Poor BL, he doesn't know Jesus.

M No, but let's not let him stop us from telling others about Jesus, right kids?

Missionary Series – Wednesday

(M, I, and BL)

M & I Sing “Be a Missionary.”

BL (interrupts) Are you two still yakking about being missionaries? You make me sick.

M Yes we are. Jesus said, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

I There is more! “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

BL Now wait a minute, you two are getting carried away. I heard that part about teaching all nations." Are you two fixing to go off to Yugoslavia or something?

I If that's what God wants, I'm ready now.

BL Dear ol' Isabelly, you're confused. You don't want to go to no foreign country. It would be too hard for you.

I I think it would be exciting. God could use me to win many people to Him.

BL What if He wants you to go the Amazon River? They got snakes there that could swaller you in one gulp

M God will care for her if that's where He wants her to go.

BL Quiet, Monkey. There are crocodiles and piranhas, too. They can rip you to pieces.

M Don't worry, Isabel, they wouldn't like your stuffing anyway.

BL Monkey, you ain't smart enough to learn another language. Hey, listen to what happened to one poor guy. He was trying to tell the story of

the 100 sheep, and how one sheep got lost and the shepherd went to find him.

M Yes, I've heard that parable.

BL Well, this missionary was in Chile, and he got his words mixed up for sheep.

I Oh, no, what did he say?

BL He said "bee" instead of "sheep". I guess the words sound nearly alike in Chinese or whatever language they speak in Chile.

I BL, they speak Spanish, in Chile.

M What happened?

BL He made a fool of himself, that's what. He told about the 100 little bees and how one little bee strayed off and got lost and the shepherd left the 99 bees and went and found the little bee and put him on his shoulders. Ha, ha! He made a fool of himself.

I Well, I guess it's easier to be humble and to depend on God when you're learning a new language.

BL Girl, you missed the point! It's embarrassing and you look terrible in red.

I The Bible says, "Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord and He shall lift you up." I would like it very much if God would lift me up.

BI Another thing, people that go to those countries don't exactly live in mansions you know.

M Yes they do.

BL They have mud walls and termites and, an... what did you say?

M Yes they do! Jesus promised a home in heaven for His disciples. His disciples will live in mansions in heaven.

BL But heaven's such a long way off. It might be hard here on earth.

I Jesus said we'd have problems, but it's worth it to obey and receive the rewards.

BL Now listen to me. You two are not catching on very quickly. Don't you understand that some of these countries might not even have cable TV?!?!?!?

M We'll still go wherever God wants us to go.

BL And some of them don't even have McDonalds! ! !

I Thy don't?!

BL Hah, at last the girl is catching on.

I NO, BL, that's good. Maybe I'll lose a little weight.

BL I give up. I'm leaving. (leaves)

M We can't give up. We've got a big job to do.

I Right, and I hope all these people here will obey Jesus and help us.

Missionary Series-Thursday

(M, I, and BL)

I (bopping noises)

BL Girl, what are you doing?

I I'm trying to make up a song.

BL You look like a punkie with hiccups.

I A punkie?!?! Ay, ay, ay. I'll try something a little bit calmer.
Mmmmmmmmm.

BL Now you sound like an air conditioner. What are you doing?

I I'm trying to think of some music to go with these verses. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

BL Aw, you ain't smart enough to do that. You got to be smart to make songs go to verses.

M Those are good verses, Isabel. Do you know what "teach all nations" means?

BL 'Course she don't. She ain't so smart.

I Doesn't it mean to go everywhere and tell people about Jesus?

M Yes, but in the Greek you can tell it means "to make disciples."

BL Do you know Greek? I know a little Greek and a little Hebrew. The Greek owns a restaurant, and the Hebrew has a clothing store.

I Oh, brother! What exactly is a disciple?

M A disciple is someone who has forsaken all to follow Jesus.

BL You can't make no disciples if you're not a disciple yourself.

M You're right!

I How do you make disciples?

M It's like BL said, you have to be one. If you're going to get other people to follow Jesus, you gotta be following Jesus yourself! Jesus said, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." If you give yourself to Jesus, He'll help you get others to follow Him.

I So the most important thing is living right before God?

BL (smugly) So there ain't no need to run around and tell others about how to be saved.

M No, you've got to preach it to people and not just "live it" in front of them. Jesus was perfect and He kept preaching. Besides, He commanded us to preach the Gospel to everyone!

I So we should obey the Bible BY telling others about Jesus.

M Right! The rest of the verse says, "teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." So after you've gotten 'em to follow Jesus and baptized 'em, you teach 'em to obey all the commands Jesus gave us.

I Now I've got a question.

BL (sarcastically) So what's new?

I Monkey, this week some people prayed to be saved. Are they saved?

BL They prayed a prayer didn't they? What more do you want?

M The Bible says you can tell if they meant it if they start to obey, now. "And hereby we do know that we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, 'I know Him,' and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar."

BL Aw, just let 'em say those magic words: Abra, kadabra, mumbo, jumbo. Take me to heaven, mucho pronto!

M No, the Bible says, "And hereby do we know if we know Him, if we keep His commandments."

I Yeah, and if you say that you know Him and don't keep His commandments, you're a liar.

BL So now you're calling me a liar!! I've had it! I'm leaving!

M Isabel, I know a tune to that verse you were trying to sing.

I Oh, I'm so glad. Please sing it for me.

M After Jesus had arisen from the dead,
He took His disciples, and He said,
"All power is given unto Me,
All power is given unto Me.
Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations,
Baptizing them in the name of the Father
And of the Son and of the Holy Ghost,
Teaching them to observe all things
Whatsoever I have commanded you.
Teaching them to observe all things
Whatsoever I have commanded you.
And lo, I am with you always,
Even unto the end of the world."
And then Jesus went back up into Heaven.

(This song is found in Paul Young's *Bible Verse Songs* tape.)

Missionary Series-Friday

(M, I, and BL)

I Hey, Monkey, do you want to know what I've been reading?

M What?

I I've been reading about the Apostle Paul. He was one very great missionary.

M You're right about that.

BL Here they go again. They're still talking about missionaries. They make me sick.

I Boy, now that guy really traveled.

BL Why, did he get free mileage on Delta Airlines?

I No, but when I look at the map in my Bible, I see all these little lines, red ones, and blue ones, and purple ones. What do the lines mean Monkey?

M The lines on the map show the different places the Apostle Paul went on his different missionary journeys.

I That's what I thought. A lot of people got saved because of him, right?

BL I hate that guy.

M Right, Isabel, he also helped start a lot of churches.

I But then I read another part of the Bible that told a lot of bad things that happened to the Apostle Paul.

BL I like that part.

M Oh, yes. It's a long list. He got beaten a bunch of times, and one time they stoned him 'til they thought he was dead.

I Yes, they beat him 39 licks, 5 different times.

BL Let's see, that makes 195 whacks, with a whip too.

M And he got beaten with a rod three times and shipwrecked three times.

I It sounds like he was in danger a lot. He was in danger of robbers and of drowning. He was in danger in the city and in the country.

M Yes, he was tired and cold and hungry sometimes.

I Oh, Monkey, I want to be a good missionary, but what if bad things like that happen to us. What will we do?

BL (aside) I'd like to arrange for you to find out.

M Jesus tells us what to do. He says to count it all joy when you fall into different kinds of temptations. He said, "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad for great is your reward in heaven" when you are persecuted.

BL I can't take this anymore. You're driving me crazy with all your talk about missionaries. (He tries to bite them.)

(All go down behind the curtain scuffling, and then M & I return tied up.)

BL I got 'em good that time. Look at them, ha, ha.

I Ooooooooooh!

M Isabel, are you OK?

I OOOOOOOOH!

M Are you hurt?

I Uh uh.

M I think I can get my arms untied and then we just have to get your braids free.

I Praise the Lord! I'm so happy.

BL What did she say?

M She said, "Praise the Lord!" and I do too.

I Yes, because Jesus said to do that when you have persecution.

BL Man, I thought I had 'em.

I No, we're just going to keep serving Jesus just like the apostle Paul did.

BL Aw, shut up. I'm getting out of here. (He leaves.)

M When you're treated badly because you're following Jesus, that's good news, not bad news. You'll get special reward, Jesus said.

I So let's all just try to win others to Jesus whether things go good or bad!

M Right! (Both leave.)

Poems to Live By No. 1

(M, I, and BL)

I What is the best way to teach—so people will remember?

M What do you want to teach?

I The commands of Jesus. He said for us to teach them to obey all the things He commanded.

M One way to teach so they will remember is to set the commands to poetry. I still remember poems I learned when I was little.

I That's a great idea! Where should we start?

BL Here's a poem I live by:

Live for yourself; forget the rest!
You deserve the very best!

Do drugs and sex and booze pell mell!
Enjoy your sin...

M ...And go to hell!

Yeah, you just live a sinful, selfish life, and you're headed for hell.

I We're trying to teach them how they *should* live. Besides, if they learn to obey, they'll be happier!

M The most important thing to do is to obey the Great Commandment. Jesus said the greatest command is to love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength.

I How would we make that a poem?

M Love the Lord with all your heart.
Give to Jesus every part.

I Let me try.

Love the Lord with all your heart.
Give to Jesus every part.

M Good! You see how easy it was to learn? Now let's do it together.

I & M Love the Lord with all your heart.
Give to Jesus every part.

I (Facing audience) Now let's all do it together, *everybody*.

All Love the Lord with all your heart.
Give to Jesus every part.

M Jesus deserves our love and obedience. He deserves everything! He made us and everything else. Then He gave His life for us by dying on the cross for us so we would not have to go to the lake of fire for our own sins. Now we get to go to heaven! Yes, sir! He deserves our love and obedience, and He deserves the whole world!

I Let's say it again! We ought to love Him with all our heart and surrender everything to Him!

Love the Lord with all your heart.
Give to Jesus every part.

I Can we learn another poem?

M Here's one to start your day:

Get up, and dress; clean up your mess.
Be kind and live in thankfulness!

I Get up, and dress; clean up your mess.
Be kind and live in thankfulness!

M Right! The Bible says, "Let all things be done decently and in order." And plenty of times it tells us to be kind and thankful.

Get up, and dress; clean up your mess.
Be kind and live in thankfulness!

Now let's all do it.

All Get up, and dress; clean up your mess.
 Be kind and live in thankfulness!

M Again, everybody!

All Get up, and dress; clean up your mess.
 Be kind and live in thankfulness!

I Here's a poem about the first command with a promise. God promises long life to those who honor their parents.

 Honor parents and obey.
 Be very careful what you say.

That last part is especially for me! I talk too much. Sometimes I complain. Sometimes I talk mean to people. Sometimes I argue.

BL You sure do!

M BL, you do worse than she does. Say it again, Isabel.

I Honor parents and obey.
 Be very careful what you say.

M Honor parents and obey.
 Be very careful what you say.

 Honor parents and obey.
 Be very careful what you say.

Now let's *all* do it!

All Honor parents and obey.
 Be very careful what you say.

M Again!

All Honor parents and obey.
 Be very careful what you say.

I Could we do one about the last commandment? The one that says, “Thou shalt not covet.”

BL What does *covet* mean?

M It means to want stuff that’s not yours.

Don’t be greedy for more stuff!
Be content. You’ve got enough!

I Don’t be greedy for more stuff!
Be content. You’ve got enough!

M The Bible says in Hebrews 13:5, “Be content with what you have,” and in 1 Timothy 6:8, “If you have food and clothes, be content.”

BL Everybody here has clothes, ‘cause I can see ‘em on ‘em!

M Right!

Don’t be greedy for more stuff!
Be content. You’ve got enough!

I Don’t be greedy for more stuff!
Be content. You’ve got enough!

M Everybody!

All Don’t be greedy for more stuff!
Be content. You’ve got enough!

M Again!

All Don’t be greedy for more stuff!
Be content. You’ve got enough!

I Are you content with how they learned it?

M Yes, if they will DO it! (All exit.)

Poems to Live By No. 2

(M, I, and BL)

M Can you remember the poem about loving God?

I Love the Lord with all your heart.
Give to Jesus every part.

M Everybody!

All Love the Lord with all your heart.
Give to Jesus every part.

I I know the one to start the day!

Get up, and dress; clean up your mess.
Be kind, and live in thankfulness!

M Say it with me!

Get up, and dress; clean up your mess.
Be kind, and live in thankfulness!

Remember the one about honoring your parents?

I Honor parents, and obey.
Be very careful what you say.

Say it with me!

Honor parents, and obey.
Be very careful what you say.

M Don't be greedy...

BL ...for more stuff!
Be content. You've got enough.

M Don't be grumpy, grouchy, sad.
Thank the Lord, and you'll be glad.

I Don't be grumpy, grouchy, sad.

Thank the Lord, and you'll be glad.

BL Don't be grumpy, grouchy, sad.
Thank the Lord, and you'll be glad.

M Everybody!

Don't be grumpy, grouchy, sad.
Thank the Lord, and you'll be glad.

One of the easiest ways to be happy is to thank God for what you already have! Besides, being grumpy is a sin; the Lord commands us to rejoice evermore.

Don't be grumpy, grouchy, sad.
Thank the Lord, and you'll be glad.

(BL pops up here)

I Never lie, and never steal.
Think about how others feel.

BL Never lie, and never steal.
Unless you really need a meal.

M No! It's wrong to steal even if you're hungry. The Bible says people will understand if you steal because you're hungry, but you ***still need to pay back seven times as much!***

I Oh, my!

BL It don't say that!

M Yes, it does, in Proverbs 6:30, 31.

Never lie, and never steal.
Think about how others feel.

I Never lie, and never steal.
Think about how others feel.

BL I'm getting out of here. (leaves)

M Everybody with me!

Never lie, and never steal.
Think about how others feel.

Live in peace, and get along.
Forgive when others do you wrong.

I Live in peace, and get along.
Forgive when others do you wrong.

M Jesus insisted that if we do not forgive others, God will not forgive us!
See if you all can say it with me.

Live in peace, and get along.
Forgive when others do you wrong.

Again!

Live in peace, and get along.
Forgive when others do you wrong.

Here's another one!

Put off anger, temper, hate.
On the Bible meditate.

Thinking over God's Word will help you get rid of sins like anger.

Put off anger, temper, hate.
On the Bible meditate.

(BL pops back up.)

I Put off anger, temper, hate.
On the Bible meditate.

BL Put off anger, temper, hate.
On the Bible cogitate.

I No, no! Not cogitate! Meditate!

M Well, *cogitate* and *meditate* both mean about the same thing: they both mean *think about it*. Think over God's Word.

Put off anger, temper, hate.
On the Bible meditate.

Here's one:

Fear the Lord, and just relax.
Obey the laws, and pay your tax.

I Fear the Lord, and just relax.
Obey the laws, and pay your tax.

BL Fear the Lord, and just relax.
Pay your tax with your green backs!

I No! No! Obey the laws, and pay your tax!

BL There she goes, she yaks and yaks!

M Let's see if we can all do it right!
Fear the Lord, and just relax.
Obey the laws, and pay your tax.

The Ten Commandments 1 & 2

(M, I, and BL)

I Has anybody ever heard God speak from heaven?

M Yeah, when God gave the Ten Commandments.

BL It was scary! An earthquake! Thunder and lightening! Fire and smoke on Mount Sinai and even way up into the sky!

M Yeah! If you have any sense, you'll fear God. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." God is holy!

I What did God say when He spoke from heaven?

M He said, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image...."

BL Nobody here would break those! Who's gonna make a dumb idol and pray to it?! Who's gonna worship a totem pole?! Nobody here's gonna bow down to an idol of the Virgin Mary or a statue of Buddha!

I What's Buddha?

BL Buddha? He's that fat Chinese squatting on the floor with his shirt off.

M But lots of people *are* guilty of idolatry—worshipping idols! They're guilty of idolatry and don't even know it!

I How?

M The Bible says covetousness *is* idolatry. So when you're not satisfied, like when you wish you had a swimming pool like somebody else has...

I ...Or nicer clothes...

BL ...Or somebody else's games...

M ...or a new car, or more money, you're making an idol out of that pool, or that car, or that money! Covetousness is idolatry.

I I did not know I was guilty of idolatry! Oh, my!

M Also, the Bible says *stubbornness* is as idolatry. (Looking at audience) Have any of you ever seen someone who is stubborn? (Pause.) Did you ever see someone who was stubborn, and it was in the mirror that you saw that stubborn person?

BL (Pause for a few seconds.) I think they're too stubborn to admit it!

M Stubbornness is as idolatry! Have you ever gotten into an argument with someone, and after a while you realized you were wrong, but you kept on arguing anyway?

I That was me! Too stubborn to admit I was wrong!

M (Pause for a few seconds.) There's another common way to worship another god. Jesus said you cannot serve God and money. Either you will love one and hate the other or else you will hold to one and despise the other.

I What does that mean?

M If the important thing to you is money, then you're not really serving God; you're serving money. If you're serving God, money will not be all that important to you.

BL Well, I don't think anybody I know is serving God, then. A lot of people go to church and all, but money is what they work for, and it's what causes them to make the big decisions of life, and a lot of little ones, too.

M Jesus is right. You cannot serve God and money. Either you will love one and hate the other, or else you will hold on to one and think the other one's not so important.

BL Well, you gotta do what'll get you the most money.

I I can see that a lot of people *have* made money their idol!

M Yep, a lot of people are guilty of idolatry! By being greedy...

I ...And by being stubborn!

The Ten Commandments 3 & 4

(M, I, and BL)

I I found out last time that I was guilty of idolatry, worshipping idols! I've been stubborn, and I've been covetousness, not satisfied!

M Yep, the Bible says, "Covetousness *is* idolatry," and "Stubbornness is as idolatry."

I I know the next commandment! "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." Does that mean don't say "God" along with the *D* word.

BL Aw, God ain't gonna hold that against you if you just say that, especially if you're mad. You can't always help what you say!

M Yes, He will hold it against you! Listen to the third commandment: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain." So He will hold you guilty if you take His name in vain!

I Even if you're mad and don't know what you're saying?

M Jesus said you will give account for *every idle word* you speak. So at the Day of Judgment we will have to give account of *every* word that is not useful!

I Wow! I'm going to have to be very careful about talking, and only say helpful words!

M And we need to hallow God's name. Jesus told us to pray, "Hallowed be Thy name."

BL What's that mean?

M Be respectful and reverent with the name, God, or God Almighty, or Jesus, or Jesus Christ, or Lord. Don't just say, "Good Lord" as an expression, or "Lord have mercy!" or joke about God. Remember: "Hallowed be Thy name." Also don't say "Hallelujah" carelessly.

BL Why?

M Because “Hallelujah” means “praise the Lord.” So you shouldn’t take God’s name in vain.

BL A lot of people use God’s name carelessly when they’re singing Christian songs and don’t mean what they are singing, “All to Jesus I surrender” or “I love you, Lord, more than life.” A lotta people who sing like that are just hypocrites and fakers.

M Right!

I Oh, my! I’ll have to be careful even when I’m singing, to reverence God’s name.

M There’s another way people take God’s name in vain.

I Uh oh!

M When you call yourself a Christian, you’re taking Christ’s name. Christ is the first part of the word Christian. The Bible says, “Let every one that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” You’re giving Christ a bad name if you call yourself a Christian without turning away from your wicked ways!

I What about the command to keep the sabbath day holy?

M God has given one day a week to rest, to keep holy. He said, “Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work....”

I So we’re breaking the commandment if we don’t work for six days, and we’re breaking it if we don’t rest one day a week.

M Right.

BL So it’s a sin to be lazy, and it’s a sin to work all the time!

M And resting on the sabbath day and not working is a reminder that we are saved by resting in Jesus’ promise, and not by our works.

I That is so nice! I like that commandment! We get to rest and relax one day each week.

M Without feeling guilty about it!

I And we are saved by faith, resting in God's promise! I like that!

M All the commandments are for our good! God tells us what to do because He loves us and wants things to go well for us!

The Ten Commandments No. 5

(M, I, and BL)

M Did you know God makes a promise to those who honor their parents?

BL What promise?

M “Honor thy father and mother that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest live long on the earth.”

I So there are *two* promises: things will go well with you and you will live long on the earth! I want those blessings. I want to do well at school, I want to have a happy marriage...

BL You'll never get anybody to marry you!

I (Glares at BL and then looks away) Let's think of some ways to honor our parents, so we can get these blessings!

M OK, here's a big one: obey quickly and cheerfully.

BL Obey, if they are watching, but show them you don't like it.

I No, obey quickly and cheerfully.

M BL, you know you don't like the kids, and you're trying to get them into trouble!

BL Shhhhh! You know I don't want them to know that!

M Beelzebub doesn't want things to go well for you, and he doesn't want you to live long!

BL (To Monkey in a stage whisper) I said, “Hush.” (To the audience) You don't have to do all that stuff your parents tell you to do! They're just being bossy! You ought'a have a say in it!

I Here's another way to honor your parents: help them, even if they don't make you do it.

M Right, help them, even if they don't make you.

BL Aw, you've got more important things to do. You aint nobody's slave!

I I think I want live a long time with things going well for me!

M Here's another one: give them something nice.

I Yes, give them something nice; like, you could buy something for your parents, or make something for them...

BL ...Or pick some flowers for them—out of your neighbor's garden!

M Here are some *don'ts*: Don't talk back or complain!

I Right! Don't talk back or complain!

BL Hey! Complaining is your right! You gotta let people know how you feel and what you think!

M Complaining is one of the devil's favorite tools!

BL Hush, now!

I Don't talk back or complain! Here's another one. Don't talk bad about them—even if it's true!

M Right, don't talk bad about'em—even if it's true!

BL What if your dad gets drunk or your mom lies?

M Here's the rule: keep your big mouth shut! You don't need to blab all their faults! *Honor* your father and your mother! (Pause) Here's another *don't*: Don't raise your voice or tell them what to do!

I Don't raise your voice or tell them what to do!

BL What if they raise their voice at you?

M It's their place to raise their voice, sometimes. It's not your place to raise your voice at your parents! Honor your parents! They're supposed

to tell you what to do. You're not supposed to tell them what to do!
(Pause) Now let's review the *don't's*. Don't talk back or complain!

I Don't talk back or complain!

M Don't talk bad about'em—even if it's true!

I Don't talk bad about'em—even if it's true!

M Don't raise y'voice or tell'em what to do!

I Don't raise y'voice or tell'em what to do!

M Here are some *do's*. (Pause) Thank them!

I They do a lot of things for us, and we don't even think to thank them!

M Ingratitude is a big sin!

I You could write a note of thanks to your parents for all the things you can think of that they have done for you.

M Yep! That would be a good way to honor your parents. You *do* want things to go well for you, don't you? And live a long time?

I I know another way to honor your parents: pray for them!

M Right! Pray for them!

I I know another way: brag about them!

M Right! Bragging about them is a good way to honor your parents!

BL I thought it was wrong to brag!

M It *is* wrong to brag about yourself! “Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth, a stranger, and not thine own lips.” But God commanded us to honor our parents, and bragging about them is a good way to honor them.

I I know an important way to honor them: take care of them when they get old. (Looking a audience) They took care of you when you were a

baby. You would scream and holler and wake them up when they were trying to sleep. They would change your messy diapers and clean you up. And then you would make another mess!

BL (To audience) You messed your diapers hundreds of times!

I And there will come a time when they will not be able to take care of themselves so well.

M (Facing audience) Then whose job is it to take care of your parents? (Pause for their answer.) It is **your** job to take care of your parents when they get old! (Pause.) Now let's review. I'll say one; then you all say it.

1. Obey quickly and cheerfully! (Let the audience repeat each time.)
2. Help them—even if they don't make you.
3. Give them something nice!
4. Don't talk back or complain.
5. Don't talk bad about them—even if it's true!
6. Don't raise your voice or tell them what to do!
7. Thank them.
8. Pray for them.
9. Brag about them.
10. Take care of them—especially when they're old.

BL I know another one. Don't wake'em up when they're trying to sleep.

I Oh, BL, I'm so proud of you! You said a good one! Don't wake them up when they're trying to sleep.

BL You might get yourself killed!

M If you *do* honor your parents in these ways, it really will help you live longer! That's God's promise!

BL That's what I said—they won't kill you!

I And God also said things will go well with you—if you honor your parents.

M (Facing audience) How many of you know that you have not honored your parents in some of these ways, but you're going to change and honor your parents in one or more of these ten ways?

BL Eleven ways! Don't forget, "Don't wake them up when they're trying to sleep!"

M OK, how many of you know you have failed to honor your parents in one or more of these eleven ways, but you're going to change that and honor them. (Look around the audience and wait for a response.) If you do, I know what will happen: you'll live longer, and things will go better for you. God promised.

The Ten Commandments No. 6

(M, I, and BL)

I Hold still, BL, I think I can kill that mosquito on you! (Swats)

BL Ouch!

I I got it! I got it!

BL Here we are talking about the Ten Commandments, and you just broke one! You committed murder!

I Oh, I didn't hurt you that bad! I didn't kill you!

BL No, but you just murdered that mosquito! How would you like some big giant to come kill you, just because you're a nuisance? And besides, you're encouraging murder every time you eat meat! Somebody murdered that cow or that poor little chicken! Shame on you!

M Killing animals is not murder! God said He made the animals for us to eat and enjoy and thank Him for. He said in Genesis 9:3, "Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things." And the Bible says that telling people they cannot eat meat is a doctrine of devils. God said in 1 Timothy 4:3 that He created them to be received with thanksgiving.

I I'm glad you told me what God says. That settles it! BL was making me feel guilty.

M Beelzebub likes to do that.

BL Hush now!

M But God said in that same place in Genesis that it's different to kill a person. Man is made in the image of God! "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made He man."

I So if a man murders someone, other people should kill him?

M That's right! That's what God commanded.

BL Then they would be committing murder, too!

M No, God said to do it, and it would be a sin to disobey His command! He says it again in the New Testament, that the government is God's servant to take vengeance on evildoers. Romans 13:4 says the government bears not the sword in vain.

I The sword is an instrument of execution, of death, isn't it?

M It shore ain't no instrument of rehabilitation!

I I see! So when the government executes murderers, they are not sinning; they are doing what God said for them to do. God even sent His people to war sometimes, didn't He?

M Right! (Pause) But a lot of people are guilty of murder, and they don't even know it?

BL How? By going on a shooting rampage with a machine gun with their eyes closed?

I No, you mean abortion, don't you? That is so terrible to kill an innocent baby because you don't want to be bothered by it!

M That's right! God says He hates hands that shed innocent blood! Who is more innocent than a little baby that hasn't even been born, yet?

BL Abortion is a woman's Constitutional right! The Supreme Court said so!

I All the courts in the world are not going to help you when you stand before God's throne—if you have killed your baby!

M There is another way people are murderers: the Bible says that whoever hates his brother is a murderer!

I Oh, my! Hatred leads to murder!

M Not just leads to murder, 1 John 3:15 say, "Whosoever hateth his brother **IS** a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him."

BL I wonder how many murderers are sitting out there in those seats right now!

M I wonder! (Looking at audience) I know you haven't shot anybody or stabbed anybody, but whoever hates his brother is a murderer! In fact, the Bible says, "Put off... anger" in Colossians 3:8.

I Oh, my!

BL So moms and dads are committing murder when they spank their kids!

M No, just the opposite! "He who spares his rod hates his son." So if you don't spank them you hate them. (Pause) "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell." So spanking them helps them *live longer!*

I When parents discipline their children and teach the children to honor their parents, the children will not die so soon. They will live longer. God promised that those who honor parents will live longer.

M Right. Then there is another kind of murder. God told Ezekiel that if he did not warn the wicked from his wicked way, the wicked man would die, but God would hold Ezekiel responsible: "his blood will I require at thine hand" (Ezekiel 33:8). The Apostle Paul knew that, so he said, "I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:26,27).

I Oh, so if we do not warn people to turn away from their sins and turn to Jesus for mercy, God will punish them, but He will hold us responsible for not warning them! (Pause) There is a lot more to this commandment, "Thou shalt not kill," than I thought there was! (Pause)

- Killing animals is not murder.
- The government is supposed to execute murderers.
- Abortion is evil: God hates hands that shed innocent blood.
- Parents are guilty if they do not spank their kids. Beatings help save a child from premature death or from hell.
- Hatred is also murder.
- God will hold us responsible for the terrible punishment of the wicked if we do not warn them.

The Ten Commandments 7 & 8

(M, I, and BL)

BL (Stealing a dollar out of the collection plate)

I BL, you are stealing—from God!

BL Oh, I wasn't going to keep it!

I Well, that's better!

BL (Aside) I was going to spend it! Ha! Ha!

M The eighth commandment is, "Thou shalt not steal." In the Law of Moses you had to pay back twice as much, or, for some things, four or five times as much, if you got caught.

BL That teaches you that you better not get caught.

I You can be sure your sin will find you out!

M Yeah, where you gonna hide from God? Achan's theft brought death to 36 other men. Then God showed everybody who had stolen. They stoned Achan when they found out he was the one who had brought the trouble on them.

I Wow! Stealing is serious!

M Right! Whether you're stealing a car or robbing the bank or getting something out of the refrigerator Mom did not say you could have! Abraham said he would not take so much as a thread or a shoe latchet!

BL That ain't much!

M Right. But stealing is stealing. And if you've stolen, the Bible says to give it back, to restore what's stolen, with a little extra. And if you're working you need to work sixty minutes if you're being paid for an hour. If you're loafing you are robbing your employer.

I BL was robbing God!

M A lot of people do. God said, “Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, ‘Wherein have we robbed Thee?’ In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed Me....”

I Everything we have really belongs to God. So if we just use it selfishly, we are stealing. We are taking what belongs to God. (Pause) Well, if you guys will excuse me, I’ve got to go to the mall. There’s a cutesy little bikini I’ve got to buy!

M That reminds me, we haven’t talked about the seventh commandment: “Thou shalt not commit adultery.”

I Oh, my! I was not going to do that!!

M No, but the Bible says that ladies should dress modestly. See, Jesus said that whoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.

BL There’s no danger of that, looking at Isobel!

I Well!!

BL Besides, where you gonna hang that bikini?

I I have a place in my closet.

BL No, I mean, how you gonna wear it? You gonna hang it on Miss Vicki’s elbow? (Name the person operating Isobel.)

M Lust and adultery are pretty serious. Jesus said it would be better to pull our your eye and throw it away, if it makes you sin, and still enter into life, than to keep both eyes and be cast into hell fire! (Pause) There’s another way people commit adultery: Jesus said if you divorce your wife, and marry somebody else, you have committed adultery. Or if you marry a divorced woman, Jesus said you’ve committed adultery. That’s in Luke 16.

BL A lot of people in the church don’t pay no attention to what Jesus said.

M If you’re really gonna follow Jesus, it’ll make a lot of difference in how you live and what you look at.

BL Isobel, you gonna go struttin' down the beach now? (Aside) She'll clear the beaches! (Pause) I think I better clear outta here, before she bites my head off!

M No, she won't bite your head off, but Herod did cut John the Baptist's head off when John told Herod he should not have the woman he had married.

I Maybe we'd better leave before somebody else tries to get a head!

Commandments 9 & 10

(M, I, and BL)

I (Sigh) It's the day night of VBS. (Sigh) I've been thinking about it all day. I hope everyone is already saved.

BL You know what I've been doing today? I went for an airplane ride!

I You did? How exciting!

BL Yep, we went up and flew west.

I How far did you go?

BL We came down on the edge of the Grand Canyon.

I Oh, did you see any cute little burros?

BL Yep, and we saw Indians too.

I How exciting!

BL Yep, and they chased us.

I Were they mad?

BL Oh yeah! They wanted our scalps, I reckon. We had to run for the airplane.

I Oh BL, did they catch you?

BL Yep, they had me by the leg.

I What did you do?

BL I tried to get away, but they just kept pulling my leg—just like I'm pulling yours. Ha! Ha!

I Oh BL, I believed you!

BL Yer pretty dumb too! You were really swallering that!

I Hey Monkey, come quick. BL's being mean to me. He's lying to me.

M BL, you shouldn't lie. That's the 9th Commandment "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."

BL Aw, this ain't no court of law. I didn't swear to tell the truth or nothing.

M We're supposed to be truthful all the time. Not just in court.

BL Some of dem people in court ain't so honest any way. You know how you can tell if a lawyer is honest?

I How? Watch his eyes?

BL No, you look at his mouth. If it ain't moving, he ain't lying. Ha, Ha!

M It's serious if people lie. The Bible says "all liars shall have their part in the lake of fire."

BL That means "liars are friars."

I I know we learned about the couple named Ananias and Sapphira who got struck dead to the ground for lying.

BL And they said they were Christians, too.

M The Bible says we should do that which is honest.

I I want to tell the truth always, to make God happy.

BL Aw, yer just scared of being knocked dead or going to the Lake of fire.

I That too.

M There's another way a lot of people lie—flattering God.

I What do you mean?

M Psalm 78:36 says the people flattered God with their mouth and lied to Him with their tongue.

BL Like singing, “Oh, how I love Jesus!” when you don’t really care! Or singing, “Every breath that I take, I live for You alone!” You’re lying through your teeth! Or singing, “You alone are my heart’s desire” when you know good and well there are other things you want, too! “You alone are my heart’s desire!” That’s lying and flattery!

M Some people like flattery, but God don’t! There’s another way a lot of people lie: saying they’re saved when they continue their wicked ways.

I I heard that Christians are like sinners, just forgiven.

M The Bible says, “And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, ‘I know Him,’ and keepeth not His commandments is a liar.”

I Well, then you’re right. There are a lot of liars who do that. Where is that verse found?

M 1 John 2:4 “He that saith, ‘I know Him,’ and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar.”

BL Well, Monkey, this show’s almost over. Are you almost ready to get back into our suitcase?

I I wish I had a nice suitcase like you guys. I hate traveling in my old bag.

BL (Sarcastically) Oh you poor thing!

I And you two get to ride together. I have to go alone! (Crying) I can’t be happy ‘til I get something better to travel in.

M Uh-oh. I was just going to tell you the last commandment, too.

BL What’s that?

M “Thou shalt not covet.”

BL What’s that mean?

M It means yer not s’posed to want things other people have.

BL Oh, you mean like Isobel is doing?

I Leave me alone.

BL I'd be satisfied if . . .

M The Bible says "Having food and raiment let us be content."

I I guess we got all we need.

M And the Bible says if you're content, you'll live longer. Well, that's the end of this here puppet show, and I hope you're satisfied! Bye, bye!