



# Drama: Script

## Unit 1: Worship

## Passage

Psalms 100

### Materials

- Bibles
- Biblical costumes or headpieces, 7 men and 3 women
- Blindfold or pair of dark sunglasses
- Chairs, 4 for the car and more to create the feel of a sanctuary
- Earmuffs or Walkman headphones
- Gameboy Advance
- Highlighters
- Lectern or music stand
- Paper
- Photocopier
- Resource sheet – Did I Miss Something? (pp. 68-71)
- Table

## Purpose

Participants will realize that worship is interaction between God and God's people by participating in a drama illustrating the importance of dialog with God.

## Preparation

- Study the script carefully. If necessary, adjust the words to fit the congregation's situation.
- Duplicate 19 scripts – one for each character (see pp. 68-71). Highlight each person's lines.
- Duplicate a copy of Psalm 100 for each participant.
- Decide who will present the drama and how it will be set up for the class. If the children perform the skit, arrange for them to practice during several class sessions or to rehearse outside of class time. Or, the students could give the drama "on the spot" with a leader as the sidecoach. If this is done, an adult should play the Narrator, who begins the drama. After that, he or she stands to the side to interrupt the action, to "replay" the way a person delivered a line, or to give quick correction or direction to movement. In either case, ask an adult who has some acting experience to play God and have an older student or adult portray the Worship Leader. If the children will not be performing the drama, invite a separate team of presenters to rehearse it ahead of time and to perform it for the group. Class members can play the "congregation" and the "choir." Another way to present this skit is to read the script aloud to the class, as a storyteller, and have the children play it out as they make up their own dialog.
- Plan the characters' positions and movements ahead of time.
- Collect costume pieces and props. Ask a teaching assistant to distribute them at the appropriate times.



- Arrange the furniture in the room to simulate a sanctuary or present the drama in the sanctuary. Designate an area to serve as the family's kitchen and the door to the house. Set up four chairs to be the car. Indicate the entry door for the Greeter and the Usher.
- Before or during the lesson time, select several children – or ask for volunteers – to be the choir members.

## Procedure

*Engage* Begin with a fun activity that involves everyone. Give the following instructions:

Find a partner and sit face to face. Decide who will be the Talker and who will be the Listener. Tell the Listeners to raise their hands and keep them up until a leader whispers instructions in their ear. With older students, call all the listeners into a huddle and give the instructions. Whisper: "When your partner starts talking to you, hold your hands over your ears and close your eyes! When it is time to change places, your partner will tap you on the shoulder, so you know to open your eyes." Direct the Talkers to tell their partners what they ate for breakfast this morning and how they traveled to class today. After two minutes, tell the Talkers to tap their partners on their shoulders. Instruct them to switch roles so that the person who was the Listener now becomes the Talker. After two to three minutes, stop them.

Ask the group to discuss two questions:

- Can you tell me what your partner was saying when you covered your ears and shut your eyes?
- Do you think that worship is a time to sit and be entertained, kind of like when you go to the movies?

*Explore* Explain that the group will present, or view, a short play about talking and listening – dialog – during worship. It is called "Did I Miss Something?" Invite the group to do some warm up activities to prepare for the play.

### Practice Pantomime Skills

Pretend that you are sitting at the kitchen table. Now imagine your breakfast is in front of you. What do you see? Pick up your spoon or fork and take a bite of whatever it is – don't tell me. Show me by your actions and your face what you are eating and how it tastes. Yum. Okay, everyone stand up in front of your chair, and pretend that you are standing in front of the sink in your bathroom, brushing your teeth. Let's do a really good job of brushing every tooth in your mouth! That's right! And where's the towel to dry off your face? Show me! Finally, let's practice getting in and out of our imaginary cars. Ready? Open the door wide, scrunch down, and sit on your chair. Make sure everyone is in before you close the door! Ready to drive to church? Great, put the key in the ignition, get the car in gear, and let's go!



### Try Some Characters

Sit in a circle. Take your cue from me as I ask questions and model the different character types found in the drama. How old do you think Abraham was when he took Isaac up on the mountain? If he were that old, show me how Abraham would be sitting in his chair. Now everyone stand up as if you were Abraham. Let's all walk to the other side of the circle as if we were Abraham. Good! Now let's change into Gideon! Who was Gideon? He was a strong fighter for Israel! Everybody stand tall and strong like Gideon!

Re-gather the group. Tell them that worship is dialog between God and God's people and that we are almost ready to put on, or see, a play about this interaction. Explain that everyone will have a part in the play. Assign or ask for volunteers for the parts that need to be filled. Discuss the different set locations. Get everyone settled into their stage positions and say "When I see that everyone is ready and thinking the thoughts of their characters, I will say 'Curtain' and the play will begin. You will know when it ends because I will say 'Curtain' again." Enact the play, Did I Miss Something?

*Empower* After the presentation, gather the children and ask them questions like:

- What happened in this drama?
- What did not happen?
- What did Zach miss because he was wearing a blindfold and earmuffs?
- Do you think people really wear blindfolds and headphones in church?
- Do you think that sometimes people stop listening and looking for God during worship?
- We can't see God, but God is always present, just like the person playing God in our drama today. God was always right with Zach, even though Zach couldn't see God. How do you think you could "talk" with God during worship?
- How do you think God communicates with you during worship?
- Worship is more than sitting with God's people in the sanctuary, more than watching other people leading and singing, talking, and listening. What is a good way to start listening for God to talk/answer you?

Invite the children to talk with God right now:

Dear God, Thank you for always being with each one of us. Thank you for waiting for us to be your friends. Help us to be good listeners. Help us to stay alert for your messages to us. Amen.



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# Possibilities

## Adaptations – Younger Children

- Have others act out the script for the children to observe.
- Instead of using this script, in pairs, children can act out the story of Moses and the Burning Bush as someone reads Exodus 3:1-6 out loud. Again in pairs, one child plays Moses and the other plays God. Repeat, but this time, put a blindfold on Moses. See what happens!

## Adaptations – Older Children

- Older children can play all the parts after reading through the script once; provide each participant with his or her own highlighted script. Discuss the stage directions provided in the brackets.
- As presenters enact the script, call out “freeze” at critical moments. While actors hold positions, invite the listeners to predict what will happen next or what options the character might choose in response to the moment. Or use the “Freeze Frame” activity for a second viewing in which the audience suggests alternate choices for the main character to improvise.

# Participation

Present the drama within worship as an introduction to Confession and Pardon. After the presentation, invite the worshipers to identify with specific characters as they pray.

# Script

## Did I Miss Something?

<b>Cast of Characters</b>	Moses	<b>Stage Positions</b>
Narrator (Teacher)	Noah	
God	Peter	
Mr. Smith (Dad)	Samaritan Woman	
Mrs. Smith (Mom)		
Molly Smith (Daughter/Sister)		
Zach Smith (Son/Brother)		
Greeter		
Usher		
Worship Leader or Leaders		
Choir members (Any number)		
<b>Biblical Characters</b>	<b>Props</b>	
Abraham	• Biblical costumes or headpieces, 7 men and 3 women	• Before the drama, have the children take their places in “pews” in the “sanctuary.”
David	• Blindfold or pair of dark sunglasses	• Children selected to be choir members are lined up ready to enter.
Gideon	• Chairs, 4 for the car and more to create the feel of a sanctuary	• Bible characters are in their places toward the front of the “sanctuary.”
Hagar	• Copies of Psalm 100	• The Family is sitting at their kitchen table.
John	• Earmuffs or Walkman headphones	• The Greeter, Usher, and Worship Leader are also in place.
Mary	• Gameboy Advance	• God is sitting at the kitchen table also, but the family acts as if no one else is there.
	• Lectern or music stand	
	• Table	

**Narrator:** Curtain Up! Once there was a nice family – Dad, Mom, Molly, and Zach – who always went to church.

**Dad:** *(Stands up, puts on his suit coat.)* It’s Sunday morning, time to go to church.

**Mom:** *(Stands up, gets her purse.)* Children, Sunday morning, it’s time to go to church.

**Narrator:** So they finished their breakfast, put on their nice clothes, brushed their teeth, picked up their Bibles, and got ready to drive to church. *(They pantomime the actions as the Narrator says them. Narrator gives them time to complete each pantomime before saying the next activity.)*

**Dad:** *(Takes a chair from the table and uses it to be the driver’s seat for a car. After he places the chair, he stops and says)* Get in the car, we’ll drive to church. *(Each person picks up a kitchen chair, carries it to the “car,” and positions it – two chairs in front for the adults and two chairs in back for the children. God walks with them and stands behind the “back seat” as they “drive.”)*

**Mom:** *(After they all sit in the car, Dad or Mom pretends to drive.)* Did you brush your teeth?

**Kids:** *(Together)* Yes, Mom.

**Mom:** Good! *(Dad stops the car; they pantomime opening the car doors, get out, close doors, and walk into church.)*

**Narrator:** When they got to the sanctuary, someone was there to greet them.

**God:** *(Stands next to the Greeter, says to the Greeter)* Tell them good morning, come in, it’s nice to have you here!

**Greeter:** *(To the family)* Good morning! Come in, come in! It’s nice to have you here! *(The Smith Family shakes hands, then moves on to sit in pews.)*

**God:** Good, good! *(Goes to stand by the usher.)*

continued

**Narrator:** Then they met an usher who had bulletins for the family to use during worship.

**God:** *(To the usher)* Give each of them a bulletin and find them good seats for the service. Oh, don't forget to say their names.

**Usher:** Hello, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Molly, Zach. Can I help you find a seat? Here's a bulletin for you to use this morning. I see a place for you to sit, follow me.

**Narrator:** So the family followed the usher into the sanctuary, sat down in the pew, and settled in.

**God:** Okay, now we're ready to get together. I really enjoy it when you stop your everyday activities and just pay attention to our friendship for a while.

**Zach:** How long is this going to last?! *(God reacts with a frown.)*

**Dad:** Shhh! Be quiet!

**Mom:** Shhh! Don't wiggle!

**Zach:** I'm hungry.

**Dad:** You just finished breakfast.

**Mom:** Pay attention!

**Narrator:** When it was time for worship to begin, the choir walked in. *(Several of the children enter and sit at the front.)* Then the Worship Leader(s) came in and sat up at the front of the sanctuary. *(Worship Leader enters and takes place at the front of the worship space.)*

**Zach:** Finally. Let's get this over with! *(Puts on earmuffs and dark sunglasses or a blindfold, crosses his arms, and slumps in his seat.)*

**God:** *(Sitting behind Zach)* Oh no, here we go again.

**Leader:** *(Stands up behind a pulpit, lectern, or music stand facing the congregation.)* Good morning. Let us all stand to worship God.

**All:** *(Stand up and read together.)* "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture."

**God:** *(Stands too, big smile, and says)* Thank you, everybody! *(Sees Zach still sitting during the Psalm and talks to him from a different angle.)* Zach, hey guy, what's going on? Don't you know that I'm right here? Hey – I made you; you belong to me! You are here to be part of the family. Take off your earmuffs/earphones. *(Zach doesn't answer since he can't hear God talk to him.)*

**Mom:** *(Looking at God)* I'm sorry. *(In a stage whisper)* Zach! Stand up! Be part of the worship!  
*(Zach stands reluctantly, lifts his blindfold just enough from one eye to be able to read the Psalm with the other.)*

**God:** What's going on? Zach acts as if he doesn't even know I'm here.

**All:** "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him; bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."

**God:** Yes, I do love you and I'll never leave you – no matter what. But it looks to me like you don't care!

continued

**Leader:** Let's pray. *(All bow their heads, close their eyes.)* Dear God,

**God:** Yes?

**Leader:** We thank you for all the blessings you have given us this week.

**God:** *(Moves freely between the people speaking)* You noticed! That's great! Tell me which ones you liked the best.

**Leader:** We name these now in our hearts...

**Dad:** God, thanks for helping me make that tough decision at work this week.

**Mom:** God, thank you for the beautiful sunset I saw last night. It was awesome!

**Molly:** God, thanks for giving me a new friend at school.

**Zach:** *(God looks to Zach next, but he is silent, since he didn't hear the call to prayer. Actually, he is fidgeting.)*

**God:** Zach? Did you have anything to thank me for? *(Walks around to try to get Zach's attention.)* Zach? *(Gives him a second to respond, then shrugs his shoulders with disappointment.)*

**Leader:** Lord, we know we did wrong things this week also. We admit them to you now in our hearts...

**God:** *(Sitting down with arm around Dad, or behind the family, arms around Mom and Dad's shoulders)* Yes, I know all about the wrong things you all did this week, and what you were thinking...but I'd like to know that you know about them too! Go ahead, you can tell me. I won't tell anyone... *(They whisper in God's ears; God nods with understanding.)*

**Molly:** *(Smugly)* I can't think of anything I did wrong!

**God:** Hmm, maybe you behaved well this week, but I know what you were thinking about the new girl on your team, the one you don't think is good enough to play...

**Molly:** Oh, uh, yeah, well, yeah. *(Pause)* I'm sorry.

**God:** Thanks, Molly. I forgive you. *(Looks at Zach who is not praying.)* Zach?

**Zach:** *(Starts to draw on his bulletin.)*

**God:** *(Looks at what Zach is drawing.)* Well, that doesn't look like something you are drawing for me, even though I gave you the ability to draw...

**Leader:** And Lord, we ask you to help people who are sick or have special needs...

**Dad or Mom:** Dear God, please help our friends, the Parkers, as they struggle with having enough money to pay their bills. Please provide for them...

**God:** I know about them, and I'm already helping them. Your prayers are part of that help, and I'm glad that you care about them, too. *(They nod and smile.)*

**Molly:** Dear God... *(Everyone keeps their heads bowed for the rest of the play except for God and the Bible characters. As the Bible characters speak, each steps out of the "pew" and walks toward the Smith family while they talk. After each one finishes their lines, they find a place to sit near the Smith Family. Eventually, Zach is surrounded by the different characters.)*

**God:** *(Walks over to Moses who is sitting toward the front of the "church" and says)* I'd like to be able to talk with Zach, but he's not paying any attention. I guess he doesn't expect me to really be here. Maybe I should light up a burning bush for him?

continued

**Moses:** I remember that burning bush you put out in the desert – it definitely got my attention! That’s when you told me I was standing in a special place, a place of worship.

**Abraham:** I will never forget that night you told me how I would have as many descendants as there are stars in the heaven! And remember that ram you put out next to the altar with Isaac on it? I was really hoping you would change the directions!! I was very happy when I could worship you with the ram, and I didn’t have to sacrifice my son, Isaac!

**Noah:** You gave me the directions for how to make that amazing ark, and the first thing I did when the ark hit land was to build an altar to worship and thank you!

**David:** I don’t know why Zach doesn’t want to talk to you, or listen for your messages. You have always been easy to talk to, especially when I was all alone watching the flocks of sheep at night. I enjoyed writing Psalms that worship you.

**Mary:** Your Son Jesus was always the center of attention when he was here as a person! And when he healed people, they often knelt down and worshiped you.

**Gideon:** You answered when I put that fleece out at night.

**Hagar:** You found me in the desert and gave me water, saved my life and my son’s life, Ishmael.

**Peter:** You changed my life when you changed my name from Simon to Peter, the Rock.

**Samaritan Woman:** One day Jesus met me by a well and asked me for a drink of water. We talked about worship, and I learned to worship you in spirit and in truth.

**John:** When you gave me a vision of what heaven was like, I saw you sitting on your throne while everyone worships you.

**God:** *(Standing in the middle of the congregation, God looks all around at everyone.)* I am in the middle of the worship here.

**Zach:** *(Head bowed, praying)* Dear God, please make this stuff get finished early today so I can get home and play. I’m sorry but I don’t understand a lot of the words people say during the service. This stuff gets boring a lot of the time.

**God:** *(Heads over to Zach, gets right in front of him and bends down or kneels down facing Zach.)* Hey, great! He’s talking to me! But how is he going to hear me with his ears plugged up like that? Hmmm ... Zach ... Dude ... You have to be here anyway, why not open up your mind while you’re here?

**Zach:** Well, God, I guess since I have to be here anyway, I might as well take off my blindfold for a few minutes. *(God is right in front of him, looks around him, sees the others are still bowed in prayer, ignores God and the Bible characters.)* God, I wonder what you do when we are here in church?

**God:** Look for me. Talk to me. Listen to me.

**Zach:** *(Gets out a Game Boy Advance and starts playing it.)*

**God and Bible Characters:** *(Look at each other and shake their heads in disbelief.)*

**Narrator:** *(Steps forward and says “Curtain ” which signals the end of the play.)*