

# THE CREATION CHRONICLES

Created by Ted & Lee

## Scene 1: THE CREATION

**Characters:** God, Gabriel

**Scripture text:** Genesis 1

**Props:** desk, chair, computer keyboard or typewriter and lamp on desk with pull string, clipboard with paper, pen, 8 ½ x 11 (*can be larger*) pieces of cardboard with drawings, easel, large drawing of human form (*DaVinci's Vitruvian man*) covered with cloth

**Length:** 10 minutes

*(GOD is typing at the keyboard)*

**GOD:** Let's see. We've got dry land, water ... little more water, little more, lots of water ... lots and lots of water ... aaah, that's too much water. *(Hits the delete key, several times)* Gabriel!

*(GOD looks around. It is dark. He notices the lamp on the desk. Reaches out and pulls the cord. It comes on in sync with stage lights.)*

That's better. No, that's good. That's good. Okay, dry land ... I've got dry land ... flying things ... vegetation ... no ... no, first vegetation, then flying things ... yes. Gabriel!!!!

**GABRIEL:** Coming Lord! *(Runs in)* I came as fast as I could. It's just that there is so much space ... Wow! I like what you've done with the place. So, you wanted to see me?

**GOD:** Yes Gabriel ... I'd like you to fill out this form.

*(GOD hands GABRIEL a clipboard)*

**GABRIEL:** Name? But you already know my name.

**GOD:** Yes, I know. But you have to fill this out anyway. It's something else I've invented.

**GABRIEL:** What?

**GOD:** Bureaucracy.

**GABRIEL:** *(Filling in the form)* Gabriel. I'm Gabriel. I am Gabriel. Title?

**GOD:** Put “angel.”

**GABRIEL:** Angel ... job description?

**GOD:** Creative consultant.

**GABRIEL:** Average yearly income?

**GOD:** Just skip that part...

**GABRIEL:** So what exactly are we doing today?

**GOD:** That’s just the beauty of it. It isn’t exactly anything.

**GABRIEL:** Well then, what are we GENERALLY going to be doing?

**GOD:** Gabriel ... you’re going to be part of the greatest creation in history.

**GABRIEL:** What’s history?

**GOD:** Exactly. There’s land and water and firmament.

**GABRIEL:** What’s firmament?

**GOD:** It’s poetry... means lots of space. (*hands GABRIEL a drawing board*) Here, what do you think of this?

**GABRIEL:** I like the color. I like the texture. It’s very... it’s very...

**GOD:** Good. It’s good.

**GABRIEL:** What is good?

**GOD:** (*Switches lamp off, then back on*) That’s good.

**GABRIEL:** That IS good. So ... is this what we’ll be doing?

**GOD:** That’s just part of it, my boy! Look at these. (*Showing GABRIEL cards with drawings*) These are some of the creatures we’ll have. These will crawl on the ground ... yes ... and these are flyers, flying things! And these are swimmers. They will live in the water and they will swim.

**GABRIEL:** Why are there two of everything?

**GOD:** What?

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**GABRIEL:** You drew two of everything: two crawlers, two flyers, two swimmers.

**GOD:** Oh, there's always two, Gabe. There has to be two. It takes two.

**GABRIEL:** What does?

**GOD:** *(Pause)* Never mind. Look at this. Now these ... they will live in the ground and they don't see very well *(Squints)* ... so they will burrow ... burrow through the ground. And these will hop.

**GABRIEL:** Hop?

**GOD:** Hop.

**GABRIEL:** Hop?

*(GOD shows hopping)*

**GOD:** And these will curl up into a ball when they're startled ... *(Starts to laugh)*. I can't wait to see that. And these with the large teeth will run and pounce and these will scuttle. They will live near the water and they will scuttle.

**GABRIEL:** Scuttle?

**GOD:** Scuttle.

**GABRIEL:** Scuttle?

*(GOD does imitation of crab ... GABRIEL joins in)*

**GOD:** This big one with the big ears will lumber...

**GABRIEL:** Oh, so it's wood?

**GOD:** Not that kind of lumber. *(Pause)* Gabriel? I think we've just invented something else.

**GABRIEL:** What?

**GOD:** The pun.

**GABRIEL:** The pun?

**GOD:** And Gabriel?

**GABRIEL:** Yes?

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**GOD:** Don't ever do that again.

**GABRIEL:** Right, we'll just scrap it.

**GOD:** Stop it!

**GABRIEL:** Just nail that baby!

**GOD:** Please!

**GABRIEL:** Because it's PLANE to me that...

**GOD:** I mean it.

**GABRIEL:** Sorry. I'm really sorry.

**GOD:** That's all right. I ... forgive you.

**GABRIEL:** What do you mean?

**GOD:** It's as if it never happened.

**GABRIEL:** Wow. Great.

**GOD:** But don't ever do it again. I can't stress that enough. *(Stands)* Oh, this will be such a day. There will be creatures with four legs and six legs and eight, maybe more. There will be things that fly with wings and things that fly without wings and things with very long necks and things with no necks at all. There will be creatures that sleep hanging upside down; *(Pause)* all the blood's gonna go right to their heads. I may have to fix that. There will be things that start out as crawlers but turn into the most beautiful flyers...

*(GABRIEL puts hand up)*

**GOD:** You there, in the white.

**GABRIEL:** It sounds like there's gonna be a LOT of these creatures. Where will you put them all?

**GOD:** That's the best part. They'll be together on this ... well it'll be this sort of round animal. And allllll around it will be air. It's all linked up. See, air will go into the nostril of, say, a turtle ... which she breathes out as a gas. That feeds the grass that the turtle eats. But pow! Gravity pulls down a rockslide on the turtle and she goes back into dirt to again feed the eggs she left behind. And it starts it all over .. breathing, feeding, dying, birthing. It's like one big

animal. Can you see it, Gabe? A single place all linked together from turtle eggs to stormy weather.

**GABRIEL:** And this gravity stuff will hold things down...

**GOD:** But flight will lift them off the ground!

**GABRIEL:** And all these creatures that crawl, hop and fly  
Will be together in twos, though you won't tell me why....

**GOD:** Elephants, eagles, parrots, piranhas...

**GABRIEL:** Badgers and beagles and seagulls and llamas...

**GOD:** And trips to Bahamas in purple pajamas!

*(They laugh uproariously together.)*

**GABRIEL:** What are pajamas?

**GOD:** I have no idea. It just ... seemed ... like what was next. *(Pause; returns to desk)* I need to write that down.

**GABRIEL:** *(Inspects a drawing on an easel, covered with a drape)* Hey! What's this?

**GOD:** Oh, that. I'm still working on it.

**GABRIEL:** Can I look? *(Raises the sheet to reveal a DaVinci style rendering of the human form)* WOW! Does it crawl or lumber or fly?

**GOD:** Maybe all of those.

**GABRIEL:** Will it feed by day or night?

**GOD:** Yes. Especially when they're young.

**GABRIEL:** What's it for?

**GOD:** I don't know exactly, but I must make it.

**GABRIEL:** It looks kinda like you.

**GOD:** Yes. But there are many unknowns. This one is tricky. I like that. I like it that way. I think I'll leave things kinda open-ended.

**GABRIEL:** But what will it do?

**GOD:** Yeeesss. Exactly. What will it do? What will it do?

*(GOD gathers things, turns off the lamp, and exits. GABRIEL examines the drawing, then carries it off with him.)*

## Scene 2: Cain & Abel

**Characters:** Cain, Abel

**Scripture text:** Genesis 4:1-16

**Props:** slingshot, cabbage leaf, head of cabbage, paper origami crane

**Length:** 6 minutes

*(CAIN enters; puts sticks on a "fire". He blows hard on it.)*

**CAIN:** C'mon, burn!

*(ABEL enters with a slingshot. CAIN blows the fire again. Fire goes out. CAIN stares, fans it. Blows again and stays down on his elbows, presenting ABEL with an irresistible target.)*

**CAIN:** Shoot!

*(ABEL shoots.)*

**CAIN:** Ow!

**ABEL:** You said shoot.

**CAIN:** What is that thing?

**ABEL:** A stone shooter. I just invented it. What's that smell? I mean other than you.

**CAIN:** It's a cabbage.

**ABEL:** It stinks.

**CAIN:** Yeah, well ... it's my offering.

**ABEL:** *(Laughs)* I don't blame you. If I had one, I'd give it away, too.

**CAIN:** It's the biggest and the best one I grew!

**ABEL:** Oh yeah?

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**CAIN:** Yeah, see I figured out how to open up the soil, let it breathe. I figured out they grow better.

**ABEL:** Uh huh.

**CAIN:** Yeah and how much water. Too much water stunts the growth.

**ABEL:** Mmmm

**CAIN:** Isn't this a great cabbage?

**ABEL:** I guess. C'mere! Watch this! (*Crouches – shoots – laughs*) Did you see that? How he runs?

**CAIN:** I don't think that's a good idea.

**ABEL:** Look at this. This is so funny. (*Shoots*) See? He runs one way and then he stops and turns and ... like how small is his brain?

**CAIN:** Right. Seriously, Abel, I don't think we should do this.

**ABEL:** Aaaah, I won't hurt him. (*Shoots again ... notices*) Oops.

**CAIN:** You hit the house!

**ABEL:** So what?

**CAIN:** You broke a window.

**ABEL:** Yeah ... whatever.

**CAIN:** Give me that! (*Takes slingshot; sees Dad; straightens up.*)  
Hi Dad! No, we were just ... (*Hangs head*) Yes, sir.

**ABEL:** Hi, Mom! See what I made for you? (*Pulls out large paper crane*) It's origami, Mommy! I love you, too.

**CAIN:** Now they think that I did it.

**ABEL:** Yeah, yeah. But nobody got punished. So who cares?

(*CAIN shoots the paper bird*)

**ABEL:** Hey!

**CAIN:** What is that thing?

**ABEL:** It's a bird.

**CAIN:** No it isn't. Look, up there, with the yellow on the wing ... that is a bird.

**ABEL:** (*Stooping and pretending to gather stones, watching them*) Yeah, okay. But don't you see ... it's like a bird.

**CAIN:** What's it for? What's it do?

**ABEL:** It doesn't DO anything.

**CAIN:** Neither do you evidently.

**ABEL:** It's origami. Whaddya think?

**CAIN:** I think it must be nice to have time to sit around inventing things. I can't do that, I have to work for a living.

**ABEL:** But Cain, you invent all kinds of things. The beets, and the cauliflower, the little trees...

**CAIN:** Broccoli.

**ABEL:** ... Broccoli, rutabagas, turnip greens. You made all those things. Nobody likes 'em, but you made 'em.

**CAIN:** Dad likes the potato.

**ABEL:** Yeah, but only with some good meat. Like a good lamb chop ... or a bird. (*Shoots*) Got him! (*Runs*)

**CAIN:** You killed it! You hit him!

**ABEL:** Out of the sky and on to the altar.

**CAIN:** What? You can't do that!

**ABEL:** I sure can. It's a nice big one.

**CAIN:** You can't put that there—that's mine.

**ABEL:** Well, tell me Cain, which would YOU want ... a plump juicy quail or some ... cabbage?

**CAIN:** (*Shoves him*) Shut up!

**ABEL:** Of course, it's a nice big one and you know you have to turn the soil, and make sure there's plenty of water...

**CAIN:** I said SHUT UP! I worked hard for this. See, I'm not like you. I can't just have things drop out of the sky for me.

**ABEL:** That isn't fair.

**CAIN:** No? I think it is. You could spit on a rock and everyone would cheer. Look, Mom! I made a bird! I made a bird! Now come give me a kiss and powder my little behind.

**ABEL:** Maybe YOU could try to be a little nicer to be around. You could start by taking a bath.

**CAIN:** (*Grabs him*) It must be nice to be you. It must be nice to just watch things fall out of the sky into your lap. I work hard, Abel. I sweated for this crop. I gave everything I had and YOU ... I wish you weren't my brother. I wish you'd never been born. Sometimes I'd like to just ...

(CAIN makes fist; freezes. They look at it a moment.)

**ABEL:** Look. You made something new.

(CAIN drops his hand and runs out)

**ABEL:** Cain!!

(ABEL exits)

### Scene 3: The Flood

**Characters:** God, Gabriel

**Scripture text:** Genesis 6-8

**Props:** Desk from Scene 1. Pieces of a large cardboard drawing of the DaVinci-like human figure from Scene 1 torn in several pieces, 8 ½ x 11 cardboard with drawings of various animals (from Scene 1), clipboard with pieces of paper attached, magic marker or pen

**Length:** 10 minutes

(GOD is distracted/angry – working at desk. GABRIEL enters the office with the DaVinci drawing of a person. It is torn in several pieces. )

**GABRIEL:** Lord, I found this out in the hall. Did you... mean to do this?

**GOD:** Oh, that. Yea, I'm starting over.

**GABRIEL:** I don't understand.

**GOD:** Starting over, to begin again, new and improved ... get the bugs out.

**GABRIEL:** (*A beat*) But not these.

**GOD:** Everything. The next one will be better.

**GABRIEL:** But you can't do that.

**GOD:** Gabriel, I can do whatever I want. In fact, could you throw these out for me?

(*Holds out the drawings of the animals that he shared with GABRIEL in Scene 1*)

**GABRIEL:** Out where?

**GOD:** Just out. You'll have to really follow through to get over the firmament.

**GABRIEL:** But, why?

**GOD:** Why? Where have you been for the last 300 years?

**GABRIEL:** I've been working on this limerick.

**GOD:** For 300 years?

**GABRIEL:** Well, the last 100 I was tweaking it. (*A look from God*) It's not a pun. There once was a being called God,  
Who was playful, creative and odd.  
Said he, "See these two?  
I wonder what they'll do ..."  
And he breathed life right into their bod.

**GOD:** Wonder what they'll do? Hah. Guess we found out ... they do terrible things.

**GABRIEL:** Oh, it can't be that bad.

**GOD:** Look at this. (*Hands him the clipboard*)

**GABRIEL:** Oh, well look a couple of harmless pranks, a slingshot, a broken window ... did this actually happen?

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**GOD:** Keep going.

**GABRIEL:** Where did they get the idea for this? (*Pages further*) And they did this without tools?

**GOD:** Exactly. Not a righteous one in the bunch. I'm going to start over. It'll be fun, you'll see.

**GABRIEL:** But you don't mean everything.

**GOD:** Yes, everything. Everything must go. It's a final clearance.

**GABRIEL:** Total liquidation.

**GOD:** (*Does a take up from the desk*) Yes, exactly. Total liquidation.

**GABRIEL:** God, what about the wonderful creatures that are already here? That was some good work. Great work. The hippopotamus, the kangaroo, the ostrich, and remember the argument we had about whether the T-rex's arms were too short?

**GOD:** Yes, I do. But Gabriel, it's mine; I can do whatever I want.

**GABRIEL:** (*Pause*) If you start over you have to get rid of the flying things.

**GOD:** (*Pause*) I really shouldn't get rid of the creatures.

**GABRIEL:** No. No.

**GOD:** Especially the flying things.

**GABRIEL:** Especially them. And these ... (*Holds up the drawing fragments*) you said you had to make them. You breathed life into them ... you gave them yourself.

**GOD:** They kill each other.

**GABRIEL:** Not all of them do. You said there wasn't a righteous one in the bunch. That can't be right. There's got to be a people somewhere.

(*GOD gives GABRIEL a look*)

**GABRIEL:** How about if I find a people, would you not destroy the world?

**GOD:** If you can.

**GABRIEL:** (*Begins looking out into audience, starting house right, moving stage left*) Oh, this will be easy. There, that lovely seaside town. See that little

group there, eating and drinking, having a bloody drunken brawl. Uh ... let's move further inland. There. Over in this office building, a quiet group, drinking coffee, planning a violent overthrow of the government. You know, maybe the good people aren't all together in one place. Maybe good people don't clump. How about if I go down there and find an ad hoc group of say, 50? Would you spare them if I found 50?

**GOD:** If you found them.

**GABRIEL:** *(Leaves and immediately returns)* Lord, how about 35?

*(GOD nods)*

**GABRIEL:** *(Leaves and returns after a time)* It was the darndest thing.

**GOD:** Was it?

**GABRIEL:** I got down there and I was doing great. And then I lost count. I was up to four and then I got so confused and there's so many trees down there. But I think I could find a dozen if that would be all right.

**GOD:** Twelve. I like 12.

**GABRIEL:** *(Leaves and returns after a time)* Do I hear two?

**GOD:** I think even if you found two.

**GABRIEL:** I did. It's Noah and his wife, Naamah.

**GOD:** Noah?

**GABRIEL:** Well, he's a little eccentric I grant you. ...

**GOD:** Eccentric? He's nuts.

**GABRIEL:** But his wife Naamah is smart and sensible, oh, and fertile which would be...

**GOD:** No, I'm starting over.

**GABRIEL:** You promised.

**GOD:** But he does things nobody else does.

**GABRIEL:** So he's perfect. *(Pause)* He will listen to you.

**GOD:** (Pause) All right. Noah, his wife and the creatures.

**GABRIEL:** Of course they have kids and you can't...

**GOD:** We'll save Noah, his wife, and their children.

**GABRIEL:** Interestingly enough, those kids have done some begetting as well and...

**GOD:** Noah, his wife, their children and all the begets thereafter.

**GABRIEL:** Good. (Looks out toward earth) How are you going to ... you know?

**GOD:** It's gonna rain.

**GABRIEL:** It's rained before.

**GOD:** It's gonna RAIN.

**GABRIEL:** So they'll need a ... a...

**GOD:** ... a boat.

**GABRIEL:** About what? (With Canadian accent)

**GOD:** A boat.

**GABRIEL:** Oh, a boat, not about, eh?

**GOD:** Right. A boat.

**GABRIEL:** A boat ... a boat to float.

**GOD:** A boat to float.

**GABRIEL:** A really big boat to float.

**GOD:** Yes, a big boat.

**GABRIEL:** Does Noah know how to build this big boat?

**GOD:** I don't know.

**GABRIEL:** So you don't know if Noah knows how to build a big boat to float?

**GOD:** No.

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**GABRIEL:** So the answer is no, you don't know if Noah knows how to build this big boat to float about.

**GOD:** Stop that!

**GABRIEL:** I didn't start it. Well, this'll be fun. Of course if Noah doesn't know ... *(Meets GOD's eyes)* we've been through that. But, if he doesn't, then he'll need some help with the design. Someone to consult with ... design and consulting...

**GOD:** Would you like to do that?

**GABRIEL:** Yes, I would. *(GOD hands him a marker and clipboard)* Well, first of all it's gotta be big. I'd say maybe 300 by 50 by 50...

**GOD:** Cubits.

**GABRIEL:** Cubits! And we'll need a poop deck. *(A look from God)* I think there's gonna be lots of poop. *(Drawing)* zooba zooba zooba ... Lord?

**GOD:** *(Pause)* This isn't what I had in mind ... for this mysterious amazing creature. This isn't what I wanted them to be.

**GABRIEL:** *(Holds up the drawing fragments)* Lord, look at this. Do you know why this works? It's because it looks like you. Because it is you.

*(GOD turns to look at him)*

**GABRIEL:** You said it was good.

**GOD:** Yes.

**GABRIEL:** It's still good I think. Maybe these creatures need something more. Maybe they need more of you.

**GOD:** I created them in my image.

**GABRIEL:** But what does that mean?

**GOD:** To explore, to think, to create, but not to...

**GABRIEL:** ... not to do whatever they want.

**GOD:** *(Taking one of the scraps)* But not to forget where they came from.

**GABRIEL:** Maybe you shouldn't either ... forget where they came from.

## Scene 4: Tower of Babel

**Characters:** Frank, Rudy – two brick layers

**Scripture text:** Genesis 11:1-9

**Props:** tool box, wrench, tape measure, banana, rubber chicken, small piece of paper in Rudy's pocket, along with a pencil

**Length:** 8 minutes

*(PERFORMANCE NOTE: Near the end of this scene, the two characters find they cannot communicate; their languages are confused. As scripted, Rudy's language is a combination of Spanish, French, German and some advertising words. Frank's are mostly Polish or Italian baseball players. These words aren't sacrosanct. If some other words work for your actors and work well with the rhythms, that's fine. )*

**FRANK:** My family's always been into bricks. My father before me, his father before him, and his father before him, all the way back to when someone said, "Well, now that the water's gone down, what we gonna do with all this mud? This here flood mud." Make bricks. Don't know how I ever got up here, though. I never was much for heights. The money's good though.

**RUDY:** *(Enters)* Good day, Frank.

**FRANK:** Good day, Rudy.

**RUDY:** Is it hot enough for you?

**FRANK:** Oh yeah, it's a real scorcher.

**RUDY:** How's that?

**FRANK:** I said it's a real scorcher.

**RUDY:** Well, whaddya mean?

**FRANK:** I mean, the day. It's hot.

**RUDY:** Phew! You know it!

**FRANK:** I think we're too close to the sun.

**RUDY:** Oh, come on, Frank.

**FRANK:** I mean it. I think we was meant to stay closer to earth.

**RUDY:** Now Frank, don't go chokin' the bagpipe on me here.

**FRANK:** This whole thing is startin' to give me a real weasel under the carpet feeling.

**RUDY:** Now Frank, you sound like a ten-dollar walrus in a vinyl jumpsuit. This is the greatest thing in the world.

**FRANK:** Maybe. What's it for? Why we gotta build a tower?

**RUDY:** Not just A tower, THE tower. The greatest thing in the world.

**FRANK:** I think you've got an edifice complex.

**RUDY:** C'mere, Frank. Look way down there.

**FRANK:** You know I don't like to do that.

**RUDY:** C'mon now. Look down there. What do you see?

**FRANK:** All the people look like little dots.

**RUDY:** And they're gettin' smaller by the minute. *(Pause)*

**FRANK:** I think I just wet myself. *(Walks away from the edge)* I did. I wet myself. *(Shakes pant leg)*

**RUDY:** We get high enough you'll never be wet again. We'll see what God sees.

**FRANK:** I don't want to see what God sees. Nor should you.

**RUDY:** Yessir, we're gonna make a name for ourselves.

**FRANK:** I've already got a name. Frank.

**RUDY:** Yessirreebob. We get high enough we'll even see the future.

**FRANK:** The future? I don't wanna see the future. Today scares me plenty.

**RUDY:** You know what I see, Frank? One word: plastics.

**FRANK:** Plastics?

**RUDY:** Yessirreebob: plastics, yep and telephones, implants, cloning. Yessirreebob.

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**FRANK:** Why do you keep callin' me Bob?! I'm Frank.

**RUDY:** You see, Bob, we'll control it all ... today AND tomorrow!

**FRANK:** We're just a couple a bricklayers.

**RUDY:** There ain't nothin' we can't do!

**FRANK:** It ain't right to talk like that.

**RUDY:** We'll be just like God!

**FRANK:** Don't say that! Stop that talk! (*FRANK and RUDY both freeze and look up.*) Did you hear somethin'?

**RUDY:** Naaaaaw. It was nothin'. Let's get to work. (*They work for a time*)  
Amigo, dame das brauten.

**FRANK:** Come again, ole buddy?

**RUDY:** Das brauten. Necesito das brauten, para la pared.

**FRANK:** Are you feeling all right?

**RUDY:** Alli! (*Points to work box*) Vite! Vite!

**FRANK:** Ah. (*Holds up a wrench*)

**RUDY:** No, no, no. Brauten. Das brauten.

**FRANK:** Brauten ... Ay. (*Holds up a tape measure*)

**RUDY:** Eso es schnitzel, yo quiero brauten. Ahora! Vite! Das brauten.

**FRANK:** AAAAH!! (*Holds up banana*)

**RUDY:** (*Grabs banana*) Haaaaaa! Das brauten! (*Mimes hitting with hammer*)  
Duck, duck, duck!

**FRANK:** Duck, duck, duck?

**RUDY:** Duck, duck, duck!

**FRANK:** Ah! Duck, duck, duck. (*Holds up rubber chicken*)

**RUDY:** AAAAAIIIIIIIEEEE!!!! (*Grabs the chicken*) Frank, have you plumb  
lost your marbles? I ask for a chisel and you hand me a monkey

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wrench; I ask again and I get a tape measure, a banana and now this plucked duck. Is it so hard to give a guy a chisel?

**FRANK:** Chisel?

**RUDY:** Yes, a chisel.

**FRANK:** Vas is das chisel?

**RUDY:** A chisel. Sharp on one end and you hit the other end with a hammer, you bonehead.

**FRANK:** Bonehead?

**RUDY:** Do I have to put it in writing? 'Cause I sure can. C-H-I-Z-E-L. Chisel.

*(FRANK takes it, looks, then turns it upside down.)*

**RUDY:** Hold it right! *(RUDY turns it around, but FRANK turns it back again.)*  
Hold it right! *(Again tilt paper and head sideways)*  
AAAAAAiiiiiiyyyyyy! Heinlein Dumbkopf!

**FRANK:** Dumpkopt! Yine schweinhooks!

**RUDY:** Scungili, au'jourd'hui!

**FRANK:** Conigliari!

**RUDY:** Champs-elysee Pinata!

**FRANK:** Garbonzo Yastremzski!

**RUDY:** Pinata! Pinata! FIESTA pinata! Cinco de MAYO pinata!

*(FRANK exits, calling back another Polish or Italian baseball player, or other foreign language word)*

**RUDY:** NIKE! FAHRVEGNUGEN! *(FRANK has left. RUDY attempts to call him back.)* Franco. Lo siento! Volver! Franco, mi amigo! *(Looks around; is totally alone; looks into the sky.)* Hellllllllooooooo?  
*(RUDY bends down and begins hurriedly gathering tools; runs out with them)*

## Scene 5: ABRAHAM

**Characters:** Abraham, Gabriel

**Scripture text:** Genesis 15:1-5

**Props:** two folding chairs, water in a mug, book

**Length:** 10 minutes

*ABRAHAM comes pattering out, carrying two chairs, which he places center stage. Puts mug of water near chair.*

**ABRAM:** *(To offstage)* Ishmael! Boy! Yea, I'm talkin' to you. It's time to get in and help your mother with dinner. ... Don't sass me son, I'm not in the mood for it. We've got important company coming. Ishmael! Boy, don't ride that, that's gonna be dinner. It gets 'em riled up, they're real tough to eat, we'll be chewin' till Tuesday ... Now get yourself in here, and *(Laughs)* Heh heh, I told you. He kicked you right off, didn't he? Just rub it, it'll feel better. *(Sees GABRIEL)* Oh, there you are...

**GABRIEL:** *(Enters with book in hand and extends his arms in pronouncement)* Greetings. I am Gabriel...

**ABRAM:** *(Grabs his hand and shakes it heartily)* Boy, you're a big fella, aren't you. Always an honor. Here, take a seat. *(GABRIEL sits and begins digging through his gold book for his "script")* Ishmael! Bring this fella a drink. That's my son, Ishmael. He's a good boy. Kinda wild but a good boy. He just turned 13, you know how they are. *(Imitates a puberty stricken breaking voice)* "Hello, my name is Ishmael." *(Laughs)* I never get tired of hearing that. So, now, can I get you a drink? It'll be a while until dinner. I know it's hot out here.

**GABRIEL:** No. I'm fine. You know, I just came through your nephew Lot's place, in the Jordan Valley. It's cooler there. A nice river flowing through...

**ABRAM:** Ah, water's over-rated. Now the desert, that makes you tough.

**GABRIEL:** That's why you chose this? You could've had anything you wanted. Why did you give Lot first pick?

**ABRAM:** It was reverse psychology; I never thought he'd take it. Besides I was never much for cities. Sodom stinks and Gomorrah's overcrowded. I gotta have room.

**GABRIEL:** Room to roam?

**ABRAM:** Room to move.

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**GABRIEL:** You're a ramblin' guy?

**ABRAM:** I'm a rolling stone. *(They share a laugh)* So, what can I do you for ... ah ... What did you say your name was?

**GABRIEL:** Gabriel. I am Gabriel.

**ABRAM:** Gabriel. Abram.

**GABRIEL:** I know.

**ABRAM:** Now Gabe. Can I call ya Gabe?

**GABRIEL:** Can I call you Abe?

**ABRAM:** Well, that'd be Gabe and Abe. Gabe and Abe and Abe and Gabe.

**GABRIEL:** A couple of ramblin' guys!

**ABRAM:** Rollin' stones!

**GABRIEL:** That's us!!

*(They laugh together, then trail off)*

**ABRAM:** That's not a pun, is it?

**GABRIEL:** *(With a look up)* No, no.

**ABRAM:** Now Gabe, did you notice the altar coming in? Everywhere I go, puttin' up an altar. Keeping my side of the bargain. If it's one thing I got out here, it's rocks!

**GABRIEL:** Which brings me to this. *(Indicates the book)* This is from ... *(Gestures heavenward)* As a new sign of this covenant, you are to take the foreskin of each male member of each...

**ABRAM:** Take it where?

**GABRIEL:** *(Pause as GABRIEL checks in his book)* Off. *(ABRAM has just taken a drink and spews water when he hears this)* As a new sign of this covenant you are to take the foreskin of each male member of each household ... off.

**ABRAM:** Let me see that...

**GABRIEL:** *(Hands him the book)* There's a diagram right here.

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**ABRAM:** That's gonna sting a little. He's gotta funny sense of humor, don't he?

**GABRIEL:** He wants to begin with you.

**ABRAM:** That's great. That's just great. (*Crosses his legs*) So it appears that I'm giving something up. What's in it for me?

**GABRIEL:** That's also why I'm here.

**ABRAM:** I'm glad there's another reason.

**GABRIEL:** Abram, I have come today to tell you that the Lord will keep his promise to you. You will have a son!

**ABRAM:** Well, Gabe, I've got a son. It's Ishmael. I talked about him before. He's kinda wild but he's a good boy.

**GABRIEL:** I know. But you will have another son.

**ABRAM:** Now how in the world am I gonna ... Oh, I see! Another wife!  
(*Takes drink but doesn't swallow*)

**GABRIEL:** No, with Sarah.

**ABRAM:** (*Spews water*) Sarah?

**GABRIEL:** You and Sarah together will have a son. It will be through her that the nations will rise up.

**ABRAM:** (*Waits a beat, then begins laughing hysterically. GABRIEL joins even though he doesn't know why. ABRAM regains control.*) Oh, you got me. You got the old sheepherder. Me and Sarah ... that's a good one.

**GABRIEL:** Abram ... the Lord meant what he said.

**ABRAM:** Gabe, she's 90. I'll go slow for you. See, there's a time to do this sort of thing. Sarah, God bless her, is a little beyond that time. You fellas done missed it, she's too old. Now me, maybe I'm still as fertile as Lot's back forty, but I can't do it myself, you see it takes two.

**GABRIEL:** I understand the process. Nevertheless, it's true. You and Sarah together will have a son.

**ABRAM:** You're not kidding are you?

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**GABRIEL:** No Abe, I'm not.

**ABRAM:** Another son.

**GABRIEL:** Yes.

**ABRAM:** Tell me about him.

**GABRIEL:** His name is to be Isaac, which means...

**TOGETHER:** "...he laughs".

**ABRAM:** Isaac.

**GABRIEL:** He'll be the spittin' image of you.

**ABRAM:** So he'll be a handsome little bugger.

**GABRIEL:** He'll be the spittin' image of you.

**ABRAM:** *(Laughs, then stops when he realizes he has a problem)* Wait, wait. What about Ishmael?

**GABRIEL:** No, not him.

**ABRAM:** What do you mean?

**GABRIEL:** This promise is not for him.

**ABRAM:** *(Looks at him, rises to leave)* Okay, no deal.

**GABRIEL:** You can't do that.

**ABRAM:** It appears that I just did.

**GABRIEL:** This is the Lord you're dealing with here.

**ABRAM:** As I recall, he called me, I didn't call him

**GABRIEL:** Stay there. *(Begins flipping through the book)* There's gotta be something about that in here. *(Finds it)* Ishmael also will be blessed. His descendants too will become a great nation.

**ABRAM:** He would do that.

**GABRIEL:** *(A deep breath)* Yes.

**ABRAM:** He's kinda wild.

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**GABRIEL:** I know, you said.

**ABRAM:** But he's my son.

**GABRIEL:** He also will be exceedingly fruitful ... but live at odds with his kin.  
(*Closes book; steps away*) Come here, Abraham.

**ABRAHAM:** It's Abram.

**GABRIEL:** Come here, Abraham, father of many nations. (*GABRIEL takes him outside, points to the sky*) Look to the heavens. The stars. Can you count them?

**ABRAHAM:** That's a lot of stars, son.

**GABRIEL:** So shall your descendants be.

**ABRAHAM:** (*Speechless for a time, looking at the stars*) All those stars. I guess it might take two sons.... Sarah, never mind dinner!! (*Rushes off stage*)

**GABRIEL:** (*Looking at the sky*) So many stars. So many unknown patterns. So much yet to come. See you in ten minutes.

**INTERMISSION**

## **ACT TWO**

### **Scene 1: Desert Songs**

**Character:** Glee Club President

**Scripture texts:** Genesis 21:1-5; Genesis 25: 19-34; Exodus 6 – 12:42

**Props:** none

**Length:** 3 minutes

(*Raucous music blares, as GLEE CLUB PRESIDENT dances around in the crowd, symbolically gathering people up.*)

**GLEE CLUB PRESIDENT:**

Okay Israel! Let's find our seats! C'mon everyone! Let's gather the tribe. (*Gets up onstage to address everyone*) All right ISRAEL! Is this a great party or WHAT?! Whew! Is it hot out here? It is so hot.

(*Pause for audience to, hopefully, respond with: "How hot is it?"*) It's so

hot that I saw one camel siphoning water off another camel. Yeah!  
It's so hot that people are going over to the tower of fire just to cool  
off. It is so hot the manna is coming down toasted! Well, listen,  
people I know some of you are feeling a little down in the dumps.  
Tired of the desert, wondering where the heck is the promised  
land. What we need to do is a little tribal singing to summon up  
our unity. So, as president of the Glee Club, I've come to lead you  
in a few songs to bring us all together.

This is our history, all the way back to father Abraham. Just join in.  
*(Make up a tune or put words to a familiar song of your choice)*

Abram thought Sarah was closed like a turtle  
But God kept his promise and made Sarah fertile  
They had two sons, Isaac and Ishmael  
Isaac's son, Jacob, became Israel.

Jacob tricked Isaac right out of the blessing  
By posing as Esau with goatskins for dressing  
Then there was Joseph with his festive coat  
But his brothers sold him like he was a goat

Then came Egypt  
And the slavery  
And the labor hard  
But Moses he led us right out of that place  
And into our own backyard!

Not many of you singing there. Well, this is the Israel fight song.  
Join me on the chorus. *(The chorus is "we are the chosen of God"; actor  
can encourage the audience to join in by giving it special emphasis the  
first time it is sung.)*

*(To the tune of "The Caissons Go Rolling Along")*

It was not long ago  
we were slaves of old Pharaoh  
but we are the chosen of God.

Moses said, "Let us go!"  
and the frogs came down like snow  
'cause we are the chosen of God

And it's no, heck no, we won't work for old Pharaoh  
We will not live under his rod.

It's the god of ABRAHAM and Ike  
Who we serve whenever we like  
'cause we are the chosen of God!

Thank you! Oh, well look who it is ... ladies and gentleman the big guy, the brother of Moses, the man who GAVE us this great party, Mr. Golden Calf himself ... how bout a warm Israelite welcome for ... AARON! (*Raucous music resumes, GLEE CLUB PRESIDENT exits; AARON boogies onstage, carrying a drink and wearing a conical party hat.*)

## Scene 2: The Golden Calf

**Characters:** Aaron, Moses

**Scripture text:** Exodus 32

**Props:** Aaron wears party hat; Moses carries walking stick

**Length:** 8 minutes

**AARON:** (*Talking to the Israelites, imagining them at the back of the audience.*) Careful, there. I'm not sure that's a good idea. Okay, okay. I guess we were lucky there. Maybe we should all get down from there. Okay. Okay. I wonder if we could just tone down the music a little. Eleazar! Tell those people to ease up on the wine. It's not like we can whack a rock and get some more.

**MOSES:** (*Enters, looks around, puzzled*) Aaron?

**AARON:** Moses! ... You're back! Of course you are. Back from the mountain. That special mountain. Okay.

**MOSES:** Aaron, what's going on?

**AARON:** Well, it's ... a ... it's a ... kind of a party. A big party. You know how we are; don't need much of an excuse for a party. (*A weak chuckle, pulls the party hat up on its elastic string*)

**MOSES:** What is that?

**AARON:** That? that's a ... well, okay ... it's a golden calf. Efraim's boy, you know, he's done some work in metal, gave me a few pointers.

**MOSES:** You made a golden calf!?

**AARON:** Well okay, Moses, you weren't here. You know how these people get when you're not here. "Where's Moses? God has abandoned us. Where's Moses?" That old saw, you remember.

**MOSES:** Yes.

**AARON:** Okay see. I'll tell you, these people. A couple of months out of Egypt, and they start with the complaining. We're starving; we're dying of thirst. A tough group to please, you know.

**MOSES:** Yea, I know.

**AARON:** Okaaay. You know. A tough crowd.

**MOSES:** Tough.

**AARON:** Tough. Okay ... you know what I've heard them say? "Moses? It seems like he's making this stuff up as he goes along."

**MOSES:** Really?

**AARON:** Yea, so it was again with the whining. It's like you have to keep hitting 'em over the head, the fact that they're a chosen people.

**MOSES:** Aaron, what happened?

**AARON:** Okay. So they said, "We don't know where Moses is." I told them you were expected back any time. It's only been...

**MOSES:** Forty days.

**AARON:** Forty days. Okay. Right. Forty days? Whoa. That's why you look... Oh, but that wasn't good enough for this group I'll tell ya. "Where's Moses? Can't do nothin' without Moses" ... (*MOSES just looks at him*) They said, "Make us a god, that we may go before it."

**MOSES:** A god?

**AARON:** Yea ... So I said bring a little gold...

**MOSES:** You made a god!?

**AARON...** And then I threw it in the fire ... and out came this ... calf...

**MOSES:** Just like that?

**AARON:** Yea. Just like that. It was a miracle.

**MOSES:** A miracle?

**AARON:** Not so much a miracle ... But it ... ah ... gives them a ... I don't know ... sense of being ... of belonging ... You're upset, I can see you're upset.

**MOSES:** Well, why wouldn't I be?!! (*Under his breath*) Holy cow! Well, that's it. I'm done. You are on your own. You want a golden calf that's fine. That's great. In fact you can take your golden calf, and ... (*He's at a loss for words*)

**AARON** ... stick it where the pillar of fire don't shine?  
(*MOSES just looks at him*) Maybe not.

**MOSES:** I'm leaving.

**AARON:** Where are you going?

**MOSES:** I don't know ... out.

**AARON:** Out? Where's that? We are out in case you haven't noticed. This is about as out as you can get.

**MOSES:** I know where we are! I got us here!

**AARON:** Okay! You know this has not been a picnic. For anybody. The food? When you're starving anything sounds good. After the first couple of weeks though, all you got is manna surprise. Know what that is? Surprise! It's manna. Whatever happened to a balanced diet? Vitamin C, Moses! Fiber! Regularity'd be a good thing out here! And this wandering around? My God, what I wouldn't do for somebody who knows where we're going. And you step out for a month and a half. And I'm in charge. I never professed to being a leader ... the only reason I am here is because I happen to be ... because I happen to be ... to be...

**MOSES:** Articulate.

**AARON:** ... articulate. You go out and there's old Aaron in charge, howdy, howdy, howdy...

**MOSES:** Enough!! You think I've got an easy job? On one hand I've got these people who are never happy. It doesn't matter what I do. On the other hand I've got ... You know what I was doing up there while you were down here...

**AARON:** ... fashioning golden Bovines?

**MOSES:** (*A look*) Fashioning gold ... what?

**AARON:** Making cows.

**MOSES:** Making cows.

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**AARON:** No, Moses. I imagine that it was...

**MOSES:** I was getting my eyebrows singed off again. Forty days of law. Forty days of what to do with the fat from the lower intestines and how to build altars of acacia wood 18 inches square, and each day you must sacrifice two lambs and what I'm supposed to wear and what you're supposed to wear, and what your sons are supposed to wear and what color the curtains are supposed to be. Meanwhile you're down here conducting the Festival of the Grand Moo. Yes, I know where we are!

**AARON:** I didn't mean to imply that you didn't actually know...

**MOSES:** You know what really drives me crazy? On one hand I've got the whining from down here and then up there it's "look at your people", "see what those people of yours are doing down there." Like he didn't give them to me in the first place! *(Pause)* Look, I did not ask for this either, and I don't get all the information. You know what it feels like? It feels like He's making this stuff up as he goes along. *(AARON doesn't have anything to say. They begin to have a brother moment)*

**AARON:** *(Pulls his hat off)* Moses, I'm sorry. Are you really going to go?

**MOSES:** I should.

**AARON:** True. Okay. Absolutely. You should ... wouldn't really blame you ... I think if it were me ... oh boy ... I'll shut up.

**MOSES:** Thank you. *(Pause)* That is some nice work with the cow.

**AARON:** Thanks.

**MOSES:** It's gonna have to go.

**AARON:** Yea.

**MOSES:** I miss my sheep. They were smarter ... they were easier to lead and they didn't party. All right! Get this stuff cleaned up. I want that thing...

**AARON:** Melted down.

**MOSES:** Melted down. And turn that music off!!! *(Turns to go)*

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**AARON:** Okay! You heard the man, let's get this place cleaned up. I don't care if they're passed out ... drag 'em. Come on son, we're in deep ... well we're in trouble's what we are.

### Scene 3: Jericho

**Character:** one soldier

**Scripture text:** Joshua 6

**Prop:** trumpet

**Length:** 2 minutes

**SOLDIER:** (*Jogs briskly around the house*) How ya' doin'? Gotta keep movin'. How's it going? Join the army, see the world, right. (*After he has made a trip around the auditorium, if feasible ... the stage if not, he stops*) Joshua says we have to run around this city every day for six days blowin' trumpets. (*Blasts trumpet*) I don't ask.

### Scene 4: Samuel

**Characters:** Samuel

**Scripture text:** I Samuel 8

**Props:** cane, Samuel (in judge's robe)

**Length:** 5 minutes

**SAMUEL:** (*Walks in, using a cane*) I apologize for being late. I just don't move quite as rapidly as I used to. Some mornings I feel like a turtle treadin' oatmeal. What paper did you say you write for? Ah. That's all right. I have to tell you I'm surprised somebody wants to do a feature on me. Somebody wants to know what the old judge thinks. I'll be happy to answer any questions you have, anything we didn't cover yesterday. Well, where did we leave off? Oh yes, Jericho. Well, you know, those walls did come a' tumblin' down. Oh, yes, the Lord was with Joshua in those days as he was with Gideon and Sampson as well. Sampson was a big fella, what we call husky. Did a lot of architectural damage that boy did.

Well now. I believe it was in my 75th year that the people came to me and said "We want a king." Can you imagine? A king?! I reminded them that as judge, I and the Lord had seen to their needs, both real and imagined, in all the years that had brought us right up to this very place: the promised land. And they said: "We

want a king.” And so I asked them, “Why? Give me one good reason.” And they say: “Uh ... well ... all the other nations have one.” They really did say that. You could look it up. Chapter 8 verse 5. Well, these chicken necks had no idea what they were asking for, so I told them. I gave them the straight unvarnished truth of what would happen if they got this wish of a king. I said ... and here I am quoting again from the history ... this is Chapter 8 verse 10 in the book of First Me:

“A king,” I told them, “will take your sons and make them run before his chariots. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. He will take the best of what you have. And in that day, you will cry out because of your king, who you have chosen for yourselves; but the Lord will not answer.”

And they said, “We want a king.” The Lord said, “Go ahead, give them a king ... it would serve those chicken necks right.” The Lord did not actually call them chicken necks, but you can tell he wanted to. Let them know that things were going to change. Tell them: I will no longer fight your battles for you. You’re on your own.

Saul was the first one. Nice enough fella, not particularly bright. Tall, good lookin’. I’m not sure why they wanted him, except that he was tall and good lookin’. Things haven’t changed all that much, have they? His fatal flaw was what we call hubris ... this kingship went right to his head. Being king sucked all the sense right outta the boy. He was making a right royal mess of things, taking bribes, making corrupt decisions, and engaging in all manner of wickedness, which near as I can tell is the modus operandi of kings. In short, he disobeyed God. So the Lord instructed me to appoint David as king ... yes that David. Now David had a lot of promise. He had what they call “charisma”. Had a lot of high hope for David. *(Pause)* High hopes ... “He will take your sons and make them run before his chariots.”

*(Contemplates)* You are familiar with that passage which says, “If your right eye offends you gouge it out?” Well, if David literally gouged out HIS offensive parts, he would have been singin’ the psalms mezzo-sa’prano, if you catch my meanin’. He was what we call a randy rover. Got him in all sorts of trouble, the culmination of which was Bathsheba. Saw this woman, had to have her. Had her husband killed and he took her. Coveting. I believe they call that. *(Pause)* “He will take the best of what you have.” David had a son with that woman, Bathsheba. Now he’s king. He’s kind of a fancy lad. He’s got a real way with words, this boy ... I believe he got it from his daddy. He’s a smart boy, but he seems to be

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spendin' money like it was water. But what do I know? I'm just an old judge.

*(SAMUEL walks off)*

## Scene 5: SOLOMON

**Characters:** Solomon, Nathan (young man with baseball cap)

**Scripture text:** Song of Solomon

**Props:** Quill, book, sheet of paper from legal pad

**Length:** 10 minutes

*(NATHAN enters)*

**NATHAN:** You know when two people find each other ... when there seems to be a ... well, it's a sense that you know ... you just know ... that ... well it's love ... and you know ... well, there's this woman ... and she's ... whooo ... and it's love ... and I was supposed to meet her underneath her balcony and I was working on the ... with the paper ... what I would say to her and ... I got nothing. I gotta get some help ... *(Pause)* I know just the guy ... I am so stupid!  
*(Exits)*

**SOLOMON:** *(Enters with a feather quill in hand; writing in a book)* A gentle answer turneth aside wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. Better a simple dinner of herbs and soup, where love is, than the fatted ox and hatred with it. He who runs with scissors ... will put his eye out. God helps them that help them ... NAAAAAAAH! A fool who returns to his folly is like ... a dog who returns to his own ... vomit. I love this. He who keeps in the company of the dull...

**NATHAN:** *(Enters carrying a sheet torn from a legal pad)* Solomon! Solomon! You've gotta help me!

**SOLOMON:** Nathan! I'm writing! Leave me alone.

**NATHAN:** Listen, you gotta help me. Everyone knows you're good with women.

**SOLOMON:** Where did you hear that?

**NATHAN:** It's all over. Everybody knows that. Come on, there's this girl and I'm supposed to talk to her underneath her balcony, and I've got writer's block ... you've gotta help me.

**SOLOMON:** See here, Nathan. I cannot just go and blurt something out as a rooster spits up corn.

**NATHAN:** *(Pause to let this sink in)* Sure you can! C'mon! Look, here's what I've got so far.

**SOLOMON:** *(Reads NATHAN'S paper)* "Oh my love, you are so ... purdy."  
*(Pause)* I will help you.

**NATHAN:** Great! Let's go.

**SOLOMON:** Tarry a moment, Nathan. I'd like to hear a bit about this woman. Describe her visage.

**NATHAN:** Her what?

**SOLOMON:** Her countenance. *(NATHAN still doesn't understand)* Her face! What does she look like?

**NATHAN:** Oh, man, she is like really... purdy. She's the prettiest girl in all of Jerusalem.

**SOLOMON:** Yes, yes, Nathan. Aren't they always? I'm talking about specifics.

**NATHAN:** Specifics?

**SOLOMON:** Yes, specifics. It's not enough to tell a woman that you love her. You must tell her why. Otherwise, you are as vinegar on the wounds of a sluggard. *(NATHAN tries to figure this out)* Describe her eyes. Use a simile.

**NATHAN:** A simile?

**SOLOMON:** A comparison statement using like or as...

**NATHAN:** Solomon! There she is!

**SOLOMON:** *(Pause – looks)* She's a Rose of Sharon. A Lily of the Valley. *(He crouches behind NATHAN to coach him, a la "Cyrano de Bergerac")*

**NATHAN:** Yeah, that. Oh my love, how beautiful you are. Your eyes are like...

**SOLOMON:** Doves.

**NATHAN:** Oh, that's good! Your eyes are like doves. Oh my love, how beautiful you are. Your hair is like...

**SOLOMON:** A flock of goats.

**NATHAN:** A flo ... What?

**SOLOMON:** A flock of goats.

**NATHAN:** Goats!? What the...

**SOLOMON:** Nathan, do you want me to do this?

**NATHAN:** (*Nods*) Your hair is like a flock of goats.

**SOLOMON:** Moving down the slopes of Gilead.

**NATHAN:** Moving down the slopes of Gilead. My love, how beautiful you are.  
Your teeth are like...

**SOLOMON:** A flock of shorn ewes.

**NATHAN:** A flock of shorn ewes.

**SOLOMON:** All of which bear sons...

**NATHAN:** All of which ... Is everything gonna be livestock?

**SOLOMON:** I don't know, Nathan. I'm making this up as I go along.  
(*Cues him*) All of which bear sons...

**NATHAN:** All of which bear sons...

**SOLOMON:** And not one among them is bereaved.

**NATHAN:** And not one among them is bereaved. Your teeth. You got 'em all.  
(*Winces with eye on Solomon*)

**SOLOMON:** Move on, move on!

**NATHAN:** My love, how beautiful you are. Your cheeks...

**SOLOMON:** (*Has nothing*)

**NATHAN:** Wow, what to say about those cheeks. (*Pause*) Those cheeks, the ones I've spoken of previously...

**SOLOMON:** Are like the two halves of a pomegranate.

**NATHAN:** What?

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**SOLOMON:** A pomegranate.

**NATHAN:** I can't say that.

**SOLOMON:** It isn't livestock.

**NATHAN:** It's a fruit!

**SOLOMON:** And?

**NATHAN:** Your cheeks are like a fruit?

**SOLOMON:** Nathan, are you aware that my wisdom is like the waves on the ocean, the grains of sand on the shore, the stars in the firmament?

**NATHAN:** Firmament?

**SOLOMON:** It's poetry, it means lots of space.

**NATHAN:** *(Back to woman)* Your cheeks are like the two halves of a pomegranate.

**SOLOMON:** No, no. Let it sing. Pomegranate...

**NATHAN:** Pomegranate.

**SOLOMON:** No. Pomegranate. Use your soft palate.

**NATHAN:** Pomegranate. Use your soft...

**SOLOMON:** DON'T SAY THAT! MOVE ON.

**NATHAN:** Oh my love, how beautiful you are. Your nose...

**SOLOMON:** Uh oh.

**NATHAN:** I say your nose is like...

**SOLOMON:** A tower of Lebanon.

**NATHAN:** A tower of Lebanon. What? No, not the size but rather the...

**SOLOMON:** Elegance.

**NATHAN:** Elegance.

**SOLOMON:** And stature...

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**NATHAN:** And stature ... of said nose. *(Pause)* My love, how beautiful you are! Your navel...

**SOLOMON:** What? NO. NO.

**NATHAN:** I say your navel...

**SOLOMON:** (*"Pig Latin"*) IXNAY ON THE AVELNAY.

**NATHAN:** Why?

**SOLOMON:** Nathan, you do not speak to a woman about her navel.

**NATHAN:** You can! C'mon, whaddya got?

**SOLOMON:** Uh, all right ... Is it an innny or an outey?

**NATHAN:** I don't know that!

**SOLOMON:** We'll assume innny. It's more common and probably better for metaphor. Your navel is a rounded bowl that never lacks for mixed wine.

**NATHAN:** Mixed wine? What does that mean?

**SOLOMON:** I have no idea. It's just beautifully esoteric.

**NATHAN:** Esoteric?

**SOLOMON:** Subtle. Women don't want you to be crass.

**NATHAN:** No. No. *(Back up to the woman)* Your navel is like a rounded bowl which never lacks for mixed wine.

**SOLOMON:** *(Writing something in his book; looks up)* Well?

**NATHAN:** She's smiling.

**SOLOMON:** I told you.

**NATHAN:** Solomon, she really, really likes it.

**SOLOMON:** Good. Good. Here, you are on your own now. *(Hands NATHAN the book)*

**NATHAN:** *(Reading from the book)* "Your lips distill nectar. Honey and milk are under your tongue. How much better is your love than wine, the fragrance of your oils than any spice. Set me as a seal upon your

heart, as a seal upon your arm. For your love is as strong as death. Many waters cannot quench love, nor can floods drown it." Oh, Solomon, that's wonderful! Thank you!!

**SOLOMON:** You're welcome, my boy. Now, Nathan if you decide to publish this, I want the credit.

**NATHAN:** You got it! (*Exits*)

**SOLOMON:** I do believe this is the most beautiful love-poem-song I have ever written. I just hope it's never taken out of context. (*Exits*)

## Scene 6: JEREMIAH

**Character:** Jeremiah

**Scripture text:** Jeremiah 13

**Props:** pair of ripped up men's boxer shorts

**Length:** 3 minutes

**JEREMIAH:** Howdy. My name's Jeremiah. It was a little while back that the Lord says to me, He says, "Jeremiah," ... that's what He generally calls me, Jeremiah. He says. "Jeremiah, go buy some shorts. And wear these shorts, but don't worsh em." That's what He said, so that's what I did. I went and got me a pair of shorts and I wore 'em, but I didn't worsh em. I was never that popular anyway. And then the Lord says to me, "Jeremiah" ... that's what He generally calls me. "Jeremiah," the Lord says to me. "Jeremiah, take off them shorts." And He said: "Go to Parah and hide dem shorts in a crack in the big rock." That's what He said, so that's what I did. I took them shorts off ... Pheeeeeewwwww! ... and I took 'em on over to Parah and hid dem shorts in a crack in the big rock.

It was a little while later that the Lord says to me, "Jeremiah" ... that's what He generally calls me, Jeremiah. "Jeremiah, go back and get dem shorts what was in the crack in the big rock." So I went back and dug the shorts out of that crack what was in the big rock. (*Produces traumatized shorts from his pocket; regards them.*) Well, they didn't look the same. I didn't think they would.

Then the Lord said, "I will use the power of Babylonia to destroy the pride of the people of Judah and Jerusalem. The people of Judah are evil and stubborn. So instead of listening to me they do whatever they want and even worship other gods. And when I am

finished with them they will be good for nothing, just like dem shorts. See, I knew He'd come around to the reason why I done ruined a perfectly good pair of shorts.

See, the children of Israel, they didn't stop being the children of God; they just stopted acting like it. The Lord said, "Those shorts used to be tight around your waist," and I said, "Yeah, they used ta." He said, "That's how tightly I wanted to hold the people of Israel and Judah. I wanted them to be my people. I wanted to make them famous, so that other nations would praise and honor me, but they wouldn't do it." And then Lord was gone. I was stuck holdin' the waistband.

Well, that's what happened. That's my story. My short story.

### **Scene 7: WXPR TV**

**Characters:** Chuck (a news reporter), Hosea (the prophet)

**Scripture text:** Hosea 1

**Props:** microphone, notepad

**Length:** 5 minutes

*(Direct to imaginary camera)*

**CHUCK:** Hello everyone. I'm Chuck Orion, and you're tuned in to channel 3, WXPR with a special report from the Twenty-third Annual Convention of Prophets of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms ... that's TACOPOTNASK for short. Our top story today is the possible retirement of the prophet Hosea. Yes, the professional prophet Hosea threatens retirement.

This just in, special report. Obadiah's Saturday workshop on "Festering sores: a necessary evil" has been cancelled. That's Festering Sores ... has been canceled. Ladies and gentlemen, I've just spotted Hosea himself. Let's see if we can get some answers.

*(CHUCK moves to where Hosea is standing)*

**CHUCK:** Hosea ... you're a relatively young man, why retirement?

**HOSEA:** You're kidding right?

**CHUCK:** *(A bit uncomfortable)* Hosea, what's next?

**HOSEA:** God knows.

**CHUCK:** Ah... (*Checking notes*) It's says here that you have been seen as a symbol of Israel's wickedness.

**HOSEA:** It's hell being a walking metaphor ... (*under his breath*) no respect. I didn't do nothing wrong...

**CHUCK:** Chuck ... a man on the edge...

**HOSEA:** I's mindin' my own business.

**CHUCK:** Ah... (*Again to notes*)

**HOSEA:** God made me marry a prostitute.

**CHUCK:** Oh my.

**HOSEA:** Her name is Gomer, but she's Phoenician, so she pronounces it Gomer. (*Accent on last syllable*)

**CHUCK:** I've met her. (*Doesn't realize what he has said*)

(*HOSEA turns and just looks at him.*)

**CHUCK:** So, God asked you...

**HOSEA:** Forced me ... no respect...

**CHUCK:** ... forced you to marry a prostitute? (*Beat*)

**HOSEA:** Mom and Dad were real pleased.

**CHUCK:** I'm sure...

**HOSEA:** Then He named the kids.

**CHUCK:** Really?

**HOSEA:** Seemed a little far fetched.

**CHUCK:** I suppose...

**HOSEA:** God naming my kids. (*Ticks them off*) There's three of 'em. That's the biggest there. God named her I Will Show No Mercy. She's a little shy. Lift your veil there, honey. The middle one there is named These Are Not My People. She's real purty, ain't she? And there's the baby. God named her I Will Punish the Descendents of King Jehu of Israel for the

Murders He Committed in the Jezreel Valley. We call her JV for short. JV, wave to the reporter, baby. She's missing a finger.

**CHUCK:** Whew! Good luck monogramming your sweaters, sweetheart.

*(HOSEA gives him a look)*

**CHUCK:** *(Uncomfortable again)* Well, perhaps it's time to move along...

**HOSEA:** *(Has stayed on him)* So, you knew the wife?

**CHUCK:** I understand the stuffed pomegranates are especially good this year...

**HOSEA:** Biblically?

**CHUCK:** Look at the flower arrangements. Yes, a festive time ... perhaps we should move on.

*(HOSEA grumbles and walks off)*

**CHUCK:** Finally, much puzzlement over some peculiar statements from Isaiah. In a forum today, the prophet said: "Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning ... will be fuel for the fire." And then he says ... "For unto us a child is born." Boots, blood and babies? What? A child? I mean, whoever heard of a BIRTH metaphor? What can a little KID do? Well, it's a mystery, but more on this story if it develops. Don't need a prophet to tell us ... time's up. This is Chuck Orion at the TACOPOTNASK convention. Stay tuned for Leapin' Leviticus ... the game show of legal trivia. Tonight's category is cleansing from mildew and skin disease. I'm Chuck Orion. Good night everybody.

## Scene 8: JONAH

**Characters:** Jonah, God

**Scripture text:** Book of Jonah

**Props:** desk, inflatable child's float toy, chair at desk, chair for Jonah, candle, papers on desk, 4 x 8 pieces of cardboard

**Length:** 10 minutes

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*(PERFORMANCE/BILLING NOTE: There is often a wonderful surprise for the audience if they don't know in advance that this scene is of Jonah. It can be listed in your bulletin as "I Quit".)*

*(GOD is at his desk. JONAH gets tossed in, wearing an inflatable elephant or some other child's floaty around his waist/head)*

**JONAH:** Now what?! First the whale and now I'm here.

**GOD:** Welcome, Jonah.

**JONAH:** That's it, I'm done. I'm resigning as a prophet.

**GOD:** But Jonah. You did it. It was well done.

**JONAH:** Well done?! Well done? It was terrible! Why did I go through all that?

**GOD:** This is nice. What is it, a parrot?

**JONAH:** No, it's a turtle. They were on sale and you never know ... Lord, you KNEW they'd repent anyway.

**GOD:** No, I didn't know. You made that happen, Jonah. You saved them.

**JONAH:** Oh come on. You didn't need me. I was just some kind of prophetic placebo.

**GOD:** No, no, no. If that were true why would I have followed you all the way to ... to...?

**JONAH:** Tarshish.

**GOD:** God bless you. Oh, that would be me. *(Laughs)* I always wanted to do that.

**JONAH:** You used me, God. It isn't fair.

**GOD:** Jonah, I think that whale rubbed off on you.

**JONAH:** What do you mean?

**GOD:** You're blubbering.

**JONAH:** Oh, come on!

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**GOD:** Sorry Jonah. I guess I'm just a little giddy. I mean, they really did it. They repented, every last one of them in sackcloth and ashes.  
(Giggles)

**JONAH:** Oh, this is just funny to you. Do you know I still have dreams about that fish? I still have a full body rash from that fish ... and this is FUNNY?

**GOD:** You're very stressed. Please sit down.

**JONAH:** No. I want to know why. I want to know why I had to be thrown overboard, gobbled up and then thrown up on the beach, so I could run around Nineveh dripping with whale vomit.

**GOD:** And then waste three days in Nineveh proclaiming destruction.

**JONAH:** Yeah.

**GOD:** Only to have them actually listen to you.

**JONAH:** Exactly.

**GOD:** And all 120,000 souls were saved.

**JONAH:** (*He is caught up short*) Well, when you put it that way...

**GOD:** You ARE very stressed. Here, sit down. Let's take that off. (*Removes JONAH's floaty*) There. Just small steps. Now, take a deep breath. Then let it out. Again...

**JONAH:** What are you doing?

**GOD:** It's something else I've invented.

**JONAH:** What?

**GOD:** Psychiatry.

**JONAH:** Sounds expensive.

**GOD:** I haven't decided yet. Here. I would like you to look at these pictures and give me your first impression. (*Hold up card*)

**JONAH:** My first impression.

**GOD:** Yes. First this one.

**JONAH:** That's a whale.

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**GOD:** Mmmhmmm. And this?

**JONAH:** Whale.

**GOD:** And this one?

**JONAH:** That's an artichoke. (*Looks closer*) No, it's a very small whale. (*Hands them back*) So this is psychiatry? Three pictures of whales?

**GOD:** How would you like to play a game, Jonah?

**JONAH:** Does it involve casting lots? Because the last time I had to...

**GOD:** No, it does not involve lots. It's a role play game. That's where you get into someone else's shoes.

**JONAH:** Yeah? Well, my best pair of shoes are in the rib cage of some big mammal...

**GOD:** Not literally, Jonah. You just think like the other person thinks.

**JONAH:** Who do you want me to be?

**GOD:** You'll be me and I'll be you.

**JONAH:** What?

**GOD:** You're God and I'm Jonah. Pretend you're God.

**JONAH:** I don't understand you.

**GOD:** Good. Good.

**JONAH:** What's this all about? What are you trying to do?

**GOD:** Oh, that's very good.

**JONAH:** You know, sometimes you do the strangest things.

**GOD:** Beautiful!

**JONAH:** That's it, I'm through. I'm really tired of these stupid games.

**GOD:** Fantastic, Jonah. Great! For a second there I didn't think you knew what you were doing.

**JONAH:** Good.

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**GOD:** What? What do you mean?

**JONAH:** Oh, very nice.

**GOD:** No, really. Go ahead and tell me what you're thinking. I'd like to know.

**JONAH:** Bingo!

**GOD:** Now you're just being ornery. If you have something to say, say it. Don't dodge the issues.

**JONAH:** So true! Well done! Okay: I'm not dodging the issues. I'm trying to just stay out of the picture. Let you make your own mistakes.

**GOD:** So you think I make mistakes? The kings. They were a mistake. *(Pause)* Wait a minute. Are you still being me? Or are you being you?

**JONAH:** Yes. Yes, I'm you. I made you in my image. I'm you and everyone else. This is my grand experiment.

**GOD:** So you know how I feel down here. You know what I think and what I'm gonna say, even before I say it?

**JONAH:** *(Pause)* You are free. But you know I'm there with you, don't you?

**GOD:** *(Pause)* Sometimes you seem very far away.

**JONAH:** I do? Wait ... are you YOU now or are you still me? I got mixed up there.

**GOD:** So did I. *(Laughs, begins to look around the desk for a candle and holder and a particular scrap of paper)*

**JONAH:** Are we finished? Lord?

**GOD:** Hmmmmm?

**JONAH:** Are we done?

**GOD:** Yes. Yes we are. *(JONAH rises to leave)* Jonah. Thank you.

**JONAH:** For what?

**GOD:** Too far away.

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**JONAH:** Who?

**GOD:** I am ... too far away

**JONAH:** To me?

**GOD:** To you ... all of you.

**JONAH:** How do I get back?

**GOD:** Just go to the door, close your eyes and step. Or take the boat.

**JONAH:** *(Looks at GOD, then steps through the door)*

*(After writing something on the scrap of paper, GOD looks around a bit more, can't find the candle to fit the holder on the desk, finally exits.)*

## **Scene 9: ADVENT**

**Characters:** God, Gabriel

**Scripture text:** Luke 2

**Props:** desk, desk chair, computer keyboard, lamp, notebook papers, clipboard, 4 x 8 pieces of cardboard, candle, candleholder

**Length:** 10 minutes

*(The office is empty. GABRIEL comes in holding one of the cards like the ones used with Jonah in Scene 8 and a clipboard.)*

**GABRIEL:** Lord, I figured out what this is, it only took me 300 years. It's a whale, right? *(Notices the office is empty.)* Lord? It's a whale ... possibly a very large artichoke ... *(An idea comes to him; he can sit at the Lord's desk. Looks around and sneaks over, plunks down. Hits a key on the keyboard on the desk. Then looks out into the heavens. He has accidentally deleted something.)* Oops! *(Notices the same paper that GOD was writing on. Sits and reads)* "Wonderful counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting father, the ..." *(That's all on the paper. he flips it over and there's no more. He goes back, repeats and begins to do it with the music, comes to the gap, a pause. He then stumbles upon the final phrase. He writes it on the scrap.)* "The Prince of Peace!" *(Begins to sing the whole thing very enthusiastically until he notices GOD standing there. He immediately covers himself by pretending to dust with the sleeve of his gown.)*

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**GABRIEL:** AHH. I was just ... ah ... it's very dusty... (*GOD comes over to the paper, reads what GABRIEL has added, looks at him.*) I just thought...

**GOD:** I believe that works. It certainly does. (*Pause*) You wanted to see me about something?

**GABRIEL:** Yes, Lord. I was just in the angel locker room and there's a posting for a new job, an announcement job. And I want to do this one. I want this job.

**GOD:** An announcement job?

**GABRIEL:** Yes.

**GOD:** (*A smile*) After the Zechariah incident?

**GABRIEL:** I feel I never really had a chance to explain my side of that...

**GOD:** Gabriel, the gig was easy. You go to the old man, and tell him he's gonna have a son, and he's supposed to name him John. Easy. You get in, you get out. Instead you lose you cool and the guy's mute for nine months.

**GABRIEL:** He wasn't showing respect for my position.

**GOD:** GABRIEL, he's 90 ... you scare him half to death and tell him he's gonna have a son. I think respect for your position was the last thing on his mind. Least he didn't laugh at you.

**GABRIEL:** True. He couldn't.

**GOD:** Right ... I forgot. Which announcement?

**GABRIEL:** Which announcement?! (*Reads it to him*) Appear to a 15 year old virgin. Tell her she's going to give birth. To the son of God.

**GOD:** Yes, Isn't it wonderful?

**GABRIEL:** Wonderful? Sure ... it's great. I mean, it has some inherent flaws ... but on the whole, I'd say it's wonderful ... counselor.

**GOD:** Inherent flaws?

**GABRIEL:** Well, it seems a bit small.

**GOD:** Small.

**GABRIEL:** This ah, this method seems a little underwhelming.

**GOD:** Underwhelming.

**GABRIEL:** Well, let me put it another way. The son of God? Your son. This is new, isn't it? This is it, right?

**GOD:** Yes.

**GABRIEL:** Well, it seems that something like this, unparalleled in history, shouldn't sneak in the back door. It should be big. Explosive. Not little like this. I mean you can do whatever you want...

**GOD:** Thank you.

**GABRIEL:** Of course, but it just seems that for this you would go in big, some real oomph, a larger splash, the coming kingdom and all that. Well how bout a little of the ole celestial pomp? How about it we pull out all the stops, one big blazing entrance ... rolling peals of thunder, flashing columns of fire and lightning and then the very last thing, shake the very foundations of the Earth. Then everyone would know, THIS is a God thing.

**GOD:** Gabriel. I like this. (*Indicates work order*) I like this God thing.

**GABRIEL:** But some unknown girl, raising a helpless infant ... kind of risky isn't it?

**GOD:** Working with people's always risky, you know that.

**GABRIEL:** (*Pause*) Can I wrestle her?

**GOD:** Wrestle her?

**GABRIEL:** Yea, like I did with Jacob.

**GOD:** NO, you can't wrestle her.

**GABRIEL:** Because I think I figured out what went wrong there. If I hadn't pressed so hard right here, I wouldn't have popped his hip out of joint. This spot here is very vulnerable. (*Illustrate with a hip swing*) It's like press and pop, press and pop...

**GOD:** You can't wrestle her! You just go and tell her.

**GABRIEL:** Did you just give me the job?

**GOD:** (*Nods assent*) But Gabriel ... No surprises. This girl cannot afford to be mute for nine months. (*Raises eyebrow*)

**GABRIEL:** I understand. You can count on me. (*Starts to exit*)

**GOD:** Gabriel ... I'm not opposed to a certain amount of pomp. In fact I'd like you to get that band of yours together.

**GABRIEL:** The Heavenly Host?

**GOD:** (*Puts arm around GABE, walking him to the door*) There's a few shepherds I'd like you to do a gig for...

**GABRIEL:** What a great idea.

**GOD:** I thought so.

**GABRIEL:** They're the common folk.

**GOD:** (*Moving back to the desk*) Can you can get the fellow who plays the upright bass?

**GABRIEL:** Fats?

**GOD:** Yea, I love his work.

**GABRIEL:** Yeah, he could give it that bluesy edge. Yeah, we'll take the whole band out, I think at night. And the shepherds will be there ... abiding, or whatever they do, and I'll say something like: "Hark!" or, "Is this thing on?" And then I'll begin to sing. (*Pause*) What should I sing?

**GOD:** Just give them the news Gabe, give them the news.

(*GABRIEL exits. GOD lights candle; turns off the desk lamp. Exits*)

**END**

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PO Box 33, Harrisonburg, VA 22803  
866-ARMADILLO  
www.tedandlee.com

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