

## Samples from “Forgiveness”

**(Please note: This is not a complete script.**

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### Included in the “Forgiveness” program

**Play – story of Joseph  
Choral Reading – Matthew 18:21-35  
Short Dramatic Vignette – Jonah  
Short Drama from the life of Paul  
Dramatic Reading – the Prodigal Son  
Monologue – Mary Magdalene  
Choral Reading – Psalm 103**

### Introduction

*(All lights are down. The sound of hammering is heard offstage amid the background noise of a murmuring crowd. Lights come up slowly on cross, center backstage. All becomes quiet.)*

**Voice of Christ:** *(over sound system, as if in great pain, yet with much compassion)* “Father—forgive them.”

*(Piano music starts softly for “It Is Finished” by Ron Hamilton. Lights up as NARRATORS 1 and 2 enter. NARRATOR 1 sings verse 1, both sing verse 2, interlude with transition to next higher key. NARRATOR 2 sings verse 3, then both sing chorus.)*

**Narrator 1:** Forgiveness. It’s entwined in the scarlet thread of Redemption that is woven throughout the pages of the Holy Scriptures.

**Narrator 2:** Forgiveness. It’s a word that transcends all time, all cultures.

**Narrator 1 & 2:** Forgiveness. It’s essential for peace with ourselves and others in this life, and peace with God for eternity.

**Narrator 1:** Without the gift of forgiveness, our lives would become a tangled mass of bitterness, unresolved conflicts, revenge.

**Narrator 2:** But because of God's forgiveness for us, demonstrated by His great love in sending Jesus Christ, His only Son, to die for our sins and grant us a full and free pardon...

**Narrators 1 & 2:** ...we, too, can learn to forgive others, even when they have wronged us unjustly.

*(Lights dim as NARRATORS exit.)*

**PLAYLET - JOSEPH**  
**(Based on Genesis 37-47)**

*(Lights up on RUEBEN as he enters through arch, stage left, to front of grassy hill scene.)*

**Reuben:** *(to audience)* I was the oldest of twelve boys. Reuben is my name. My brother, Joseph, was quite a bit younger than I, just seventeen, when our father gave him a coat, a coat of many colors. It was not the beauty of the coat that made my brothers and me envious, it was the meaning behind it. Father loved Joseph more than any of us, *(pause)* and we knew it.

*(Lights remain on REUBEN, side lights also come up on JACOB and JOSEPH outside house.)*

**Jacob:** Joseph, my son. You are very special to me, for you are the son of my old age, the firstborn of my beloved wife, Rachel. She, who had been barren, was blessed of God, for God heard her cries and gave unto her both you and Benjamin before He took her home in death.

Wear this coat, and remember my great love for you.

**Joseph:** *(as JACOB helps him put on the coat)* I will, Father. I will treasure it always.

*(JACOB exits through house door.)*

**Reuben:** *(to audience)* To make matters worse, Joseph had these dreams...

*(JOSEPH faces audience, acting as though he were speaking to his brothers.)*

**Joseph:** Please, my brothers, listen to this dream which I have had:

We were all in the fields binding sheaves, and my sheaf stood up straight, and all your sheaves gathered around and bowed down before it.

**Reuben:** *(to audience)* My brothers and I were angry; the hatred we had felt toward him, because of our jealousy, grew even stronger in our hearts.

“Do you think you are going to reign over us?” we had asked him.

The second dream he told to our father as well.

**Joseph:** I have had still another dream in which the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.

**Reuben:** *(to audience)* Although father took special notice of what Joseph said, he rebuked him, saying, “Are you trying to say this dream you have had means your mother, brothers, and I will bow down to you?” *(crosses to front of gold curtain as lights go down on JOSEPH who exits through door of house)*

You know the rest of the story. It’s recorded in God’s Word for all to see.

*(REUBEN moves slightly stage right as he is speaking, BROTHERS enter from behind the blue curtain. They should act as if they are talking to one another.)*

Jacob, our father, sent Joseph to us one day to see how things were going with the flocks. As my brothers saw him approaching from afar off, their hatred for him grew so intense they conspired to kill him.

**Brother 1:** Here comes that dreamer.

**Brother 2:** Let’s slay him and cast him into some pit.

**Brother 3:** What would we tell father?

**Brother 4:** Tell him—tell him some evil beast has devoured him.

**Brother 1:** *(as all respond in agreement)* Yes, yes. Then we shall see what will become of his dreams!

**Reuben:** *(to audience)* When I heard of their wicked plan, I suggested an alternative. Although I, too, had felt resentment towards this favored younger brother of ours, I was the oldest, and I felt a responsibility toward him and our father.

“Shed no blood,” I had pleaded, “Cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, but do not harm him.”

*(JOSEPH enters from back of the auditorium, down side aisle, to where the*

*(There are several more pages to this story.)*

**Paul**

**(Based on the book of Acts)**

*(Lights up on NARRATORS who enter through archway, stage right, to raised platform.)*

**Narrator 1:** Sometimes the difficulty is not so much in forgiving others, but in forgiving ourselves. Satan is an expert at using this ploy to discourage us and keep us from serving God to our fullest potential.

**Narrator 2:** There was a man in Scripture who experienced, not only the need to forgive himself, but the ability, through Christ, to do so. His name was Saul. Before his conversion, he was zealous in trying to crush the work of the very God Whom he thought he was serving.

*(Lights down on NARRATORS, up on house scene. SAUL and a SOLDIER enter from behind the blue curtains, near trees, and approach the house. SAUL knocks on the door; a young GIRL answers.)*

**Girl 1:** Who is it? *(Sees SOLDIER, draws back fearfully.)* What—what do you want?

**Saul:** I have come to see your father.

**Girl 1:** *(looking at SOLDIER, then SAUL)* But why? What do you want with him?

**Saul:** *(impatiently)* Never mind, girl. Get him for me at once!

**Girl 1:** Y—yes, sir. *(disappears into the house)* Father! *(Her voice should get softer, as if she is going farther into the building.)* Father!

**Father:** *(comes to doorway, looks warily at both SAUL and the SOLDIER)* Yes, sir? How may I help you?

**Saul:** You are Jason, are you not? The son of Tobias?

**Father:** Yes. Has something happened to my father? *(MOTHER comes to door.)*

**Saul:** No—no. I just wanted to verify your identity. You are under arrest.

**Mother:** Under arrest! Oh, Jason! *(Their four young CHILDREN peer out from around the corner of the house. They whisper to one another.)*

**Girl 2:** What's going on?

**Girl 3:** Father is under arrest.

**Girl 1:** Does that mean they'll take him to prison?

**Girl 3:** I don't know. Shh. Listen!

**Father:** *(to SAUL, as SOLDIER put chains on the FATHER'S hands)* What crime have I committed, sir? Who are you, anyway, and by what authority do you come and disrupt my home like this?

**Saul:** You are a follower of Jesus, of Nazareth, the one who was crucified as a blasphemer, are you not?

**Father:** (*firmly, but respectfully*) I am a follower of Christ, yes. But He is the Son of God, not a blasphemer, sir. And He is no longer dead, but risen, and sitting at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Saul:** (*slapping him across the face*) How dare you speak of that impostor in such a way!

**Boy:** Father! (*He tries to run to his FATHER, but the other CHILDREN hold him back.*)

**Saul:** As to who I am... (*pauses*) Does the name, Saul of Tarsus, mean anything to you?

**Mother:** (*fearfully, emotionally*) Saul of Tarsus!

**Saul:** (*laughing*) I see you have heard of me.

*(There are a few more pages to this story.)*

### **Monologue - Mary Magdalene**

**Narrator 1:** (*Enters from behind blue curtain, stands in front of curtain as lights come up.*) Just as the prodigal son repented of his evil deeds and returned to his father, so we read in the Bible of many who turned to Christ and received the forgiveness of sins which God, in His mercy, still offers to those who believe. (*Lights down as NARRATOR exits.*)

**Mary Magdalene:** (*Dim lights come up on archway, stage right, as Mary Magdalene enters. She should seem timid, almost embarrassed to talk about her past.*) Everyone knew who I was. “Seven demons!” people would whisper. “Mary Magdalene is possessed with seven demons!” You have no idea what I suffered: the torment, the rejection, the sin. My life was like the darkest night when not even the moon casts its glow to light the way. There was no-one to help me. Even those who might have cared about me could do nothing to save me; they were as helpless as I.

But then one day, (*pause*) one day I met a man who was unlike any man I had ever met. He claimed to be the Messiah, the Son of God Himself, and He said He had the power on earth to forgive sins! Here at last was One, the only One who could lift me out of the dungeon of sin and despair to

which I had sunk. Here was the Only One Who could pardon my sin and exchange my night for day, my darkness for light, my sin for His righteousness, my eternal punishment for His eternal life!

*(There is more to this monologue.)*