

Stinky Script

Bible Bite

Jesus is God's Christmas gift to the world.

Date 7/12/06

Passage Luke 2

Other Refs Luke 2:10-11 (New International Reader's Version)

10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy. It is for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11 (Contemporary English Version)

But the angel said, "Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, which will make everyone happy. This very day in King David's hometown a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord.

Key Points Jesus is the *best* gift, better than toys.
Jesus gives us friendship with God.

Props/Materials Banana peel, soap, air freshener

Preparation Check out stage, prep mics, prep powerpoint/laptop

Debrief Went really well, had over 100 kids totally attentive, and participated in rowdy bits well. They shouted 'christmas' of their own and in unison, twice! But the 'I'm ok now' thing worked really well. They loved the fainting, lots of laughs.

Other They won't know the Bible. Connect to something they already know/connect with Christmas, and encourage more, explain a little bit.
bath gag, Don't you ever have a bath? Of course... It's the worst day of the year!
Fainting gag inspired by
Christmas by Jeff Robson
<http://www.puppetresources.com/index.php?scriptID=23&what=viewscript&t=1164578887>

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Comment [MO1]: I use this first page as a summary of the act.

Comment [MO2]: The 'Bible Bite' is one simple sentence that summarises the lesson. This is what I want the kids to take away, and I try to repeat it at least three times during the act. It refers to the idea that we feed from the Bible, and that this is a 'bite' out of it.

Comment [MO3]: In my preparation I often find other passages that are helpful, and relevant. I note them here in case I use this script as a basis for another one.

Comment [MO4]: These are secondary but important points, which I try to cover through the script. I'm generally careful though to have a clear focus on the 'Bible Bite'.

Comment [MO5]: It's important to list the things to bring and do on the day, because things can get very rushed just before the act.

Comment [MO6]: I try to make a note after the act on how it went, and what worked (and what didn't!) in case I end up doing the act again, or using the script as a template for a new act.



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Script

Hello there. I want you to meet my friend Stinky, who lives in this bin. I'm going to knock, and when he says 'Who is it?', we all have to say 'Come out Stinky!'. Some times he doesn't hear, so we'll have to say it again REALLY LOUD!

[knock bin, call out 3 times, Jon opens lid, S comes out, says hello to kids and Jon]

Oh, Mr Jon, I'm so excited!! I'm excited about the special time coming up, when I get lots of toys and we sing songs, and I get lots of toys, and we eat lots of food, and I get lots of toys!

Oh... You mean Christmas!

Sorry, what did you say?

Christmas!

[Faints, Jon can look down asking if S is OK, then comes up] Oh... I just fainted! Oh, I get so excited about this special time that when I hear about the word, I just faint!

I'm sorry Stinky, I promise I won't say that word again.

Which word?

Christmas!

[Faints, comes back slowly]

I'm sorry, I won't say it again, the word that starts with 'C'.

Which word? Carols?

No, the other one...

Cake?!

No... Christmas!

[Faints]

OK Stinky, I won't say this word again, I'll spell it CHRISTMAS...

[goes through letters....] Oh! You mean Christmas! [Looks at kids, says 'oh-oh...', faints, then comes back]

Oh... I just hope the children don't say the word... [suggestive]

[encouraging kids...] What do you think kids, shall we say it?

Kids say it, Stinky faints, then returns.

Oh... after all those faints I'm feeling better, I think I can hear the word again.

So why do you get so excited about Christmas Stinky?

Comment [MO7]: The leader explains the introduction routine to the children. This is often a good time to be wheeling Stinky in, setting up microphones, etc.

Comment [MO8]: Stinky comes out and starts setting up a situation.

Comment [MO9]: Simple use of repetition is helpful sometimes.

Comment [MO10]: A funny visual gag is a great way to start, to grab the audience. The fainting has worked really well. Then, using repetition to stretch the gag.

Comment [MO11]: It's good to have the children participate every now and then – say at least once per A4 page of script. This was a bit risky, as it invites kids to jump in.

Comment [MO12]: This was our way to control the crowd and stop a continual calling out of 'Christmas!'. We once got the kids and Stinky to test that Stinky was really better, by letting the kids shout once more without Stinky fainting. It worked.

Because the toys! I get lots of gifts from lots of people! I love it! What are *you* getting me Mr Jon?

Comment [MO13]: Stinky is a proxy child, and the audience need to identify with him.

Ah... I'm still thinking about it Stinky.

Well, if you can't decide between 2 or 3 ideas, that's OK, just get me all three! What ideas did you have, eh?

Ah... OK, well I thought of a bar of soap... [hands it to Stinky]

Soap! Urrgh! That's dangerous! It makes you clean! That's not a very good gift. What other ideas did you have?

Comment [MO14]: Stinky's love of filth is a running joke and a part of his character that children come to know him by. I try not to overdo this kind of thing so as not to send unhelpful messages that make parents' job even harder.

Some air freshener. [hands it to Stinky]

Comment [MO15]: Ditto...

Oh, that's a bit better. Does it smell like putrid vomit? That's my favourite smell. [reads can] Fresh Lavender? That's disgusting! So clean and nice! That's not a very good gift... Oh, sometimes I don't like the gifts I get – especially when they need batteries and I don't have any. I wonder what the best gift *ever* is...

Comment [MO16]: Here, with Stinky's question, we shift from his situation to the Biblical lesson. It's important the Bible lesson is driven by a question asked by Stinky, whom the children like and want to help. This motivates them to learn the answer to the question. I try to make the question 'non-standard' (but not too hard!) so it gets the children thinking.

Oh Stinky! You really get excited about gifts, don't you?

Yeah! Hey Mr Jon, I've got a question... What is God getting us for Christmas? He made the world, and He's the boss of everything – what kind of gift would He give us?

What a good question Stinky! What do you think kids?

Comment [MO17]: Here children are asked to reflect on and externalise their beliefs. They can also 'test' their beliefs against the Bible when it is read. It's also a helpful way for the teacher to understand the class and their learning needs. Lastly, this is usually a good point to involve the audience to maintain their attention.

Get kids' responses...

Well, let's see what Robbie the Robot finds in the Bible...

Slide shows:

Ah! This bit of the Bible tells what happened to some shepherds on the first Christmas. They were just looking after their sheep in the night, in the country. Suddenly, an angel appeared!

Comment [MO18]: Once the children's ideas have been discussed, it's time to come to the authority of the Bible for the answer that will help Stinky with his question.

Whoa! I would have been really scared. Did they faint?!

Comment [MO19]: It's often helpful to provide some context to the passage before it's read.

They *were* very scared, but let's read what the angel told them...

Comment [MO20]: The passage is read (often by a child).

[read passage]

But the angel said, "Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, which will make everyone happy. This very day in King David's hometown a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11 (Contemporary English Version)

Comment [MO21]: Now it's time for the leader to unpack and explain the passage. This is often the most difficult part of the script to write. It's easy to end up with a theological monologue by the leader that loses the kids – break it up with short questions from Stinky that the leader responds to, turning a monologue into a dialogue.

See? Christmas is about good news for everyone – Jesus, the Saviour and King, has come to the world! You know, the reason why we give gifts at Christmas is that God has given *us* the best gift *ever* – his son Jesus.

Comment [MO22]: Short, funny questions from Stinky break up the explanation of the passage. It also helps the leader with their lines: it breaks up the chunks, gives them cue lines, and gives them a chance to look down to a script.

Why is Jesus such a good gift? Does he come with batteries included?

Jesus showed us how we should live, and he taught us many great things. But the best thing about him is that because of him we can be friends with God.

Wow! Really!

Yes! You see, the Bible says that We all say 'no' to God and do things he doesn't like.

That's not right! God wouldn't be happy about that.

No Stinky, that means we can't be friends with God.

Oh no. How can I be friends with God? Maybe I can give him some presents? Do you think he would like my soap? [Chuck soap out]

Comment [MO23]: A good example of Stinky as a proxy learner, asking the important but hard-to-ask questions on behalf of the children.

No Stinky, instead God has given *us* something to make us his friends.

Did God give us soap?

No, God gave us his son Jesus.

Comment [MO24]: Here Stinky's question is answered.

Ah, Jesus! The gift from God! I hope Jesus is a better gift than my horrible lavender air freshener (chuck out air freshener)!

Comment [MO25]: Breaking up the explanation with funny lines also helps the kids from 'switching off' once they sense we've got to the 'Bible bit'.

He is. Jesus is a lot, lot better. Jesus did an amazing thing. He died for us. He took the punishment we deserved so we can be forgiven.

So he took our place?! Even though he didn't deserve to be punished? That's amazing!

Yes, it is amazing! If we trust and follow him as our king, we can be friends with God. And that's why Jesus is the best Christmas gift ever.

Wow! That's AMAZING! It's even better than a smelly rotten fish cake. So what's our lesson for today?

Comment [MO26]: Once the passage is explained and Stinky's question answered, Stinky asks what the lesson or 'Bible Bite' is.

Slide shows Bible Bite: Jesus is God's Christmas gift to the world.

The lesson is this: Jesus is God's Christmas gift to the world. Do you think we can say this together kids? [read] How about you Stinky, can you say it?

Comment [MO27]: The lesson or 'Bible Bite' needs to be a simple sentence summarising the whole lesson, and is repeated three times (at least!) – it's read by the leader or a volunteer child, all children together, then Stinky gets it wrong, and all read together again to help Stinky.

Ah... I'm not very good at these, I might need a bit of help. Let me see... Mr Jon's gift to the world is a big soap, without batteries...

Comment [MO28]: Stinky always gets it wrong – a comic break that children come to expect. This itself helps them reinforce the Bible Bite, as they contrast Stinky's response to the correct version.

Oh Stinky! Let's read it all together again to help Stinky. [read]

Wow! That's a gift worth getting really excited about.

Hey Stinky... What are you getting me for Christmas?

Eh... Let me see... [Goes in and out, with an old sock, etc]. Here you go! This sock is so special, there's only one of it.

Comment [MO29]: It's nice to try to finish with another joke.

Oh! An old sock! [ironic] How exciting, just what I've always wanted! I'm so excited!

Thanks. And don't worry, it doesn't need batteries. I better go now – thank you for teaching me that Jesus is God's Christmas gift to the world Mr Jon! See you later little monkeys! [exits]

Comment [MO30]: A wrap up routine – Stinky thanks the leader and says goodbye to the children. This is another chance to repeat the Bible Bite.