

Director's Notes

CAST

Matthew (Host 1)	Large speaking part
Mark (Host 2)	“ “ “
Luke (Host 3)	“ “ “
John (Host 4)	“ “ “

Assistant 1,2, (3,4) Backing group/dance routines. These assist selected children with any costumes, props etc. Optional small speaking parts.

Jo Inquisitive child. (Joe, if a boy!) Large speaking part. Optional solo singing.

Jo's Mother Small speaking part.
Child 1,2,3 (4,5) Small speaking parts.

Jesus Solo and duet singing, mime.

Peter Solo/duet, group singing and opt. Small speaking part.

Andrew, James, John (the fishermen, along with Peter). Group singing and optional small speaking parts.

Jairus' Neighbour Small speaking parts.

Girl's Mother Small speaking part and optional duet singing.

Jairus' Daughter Solo singer, mime.

Good Samaritan Mime and optional solo singing.

Judas Solo singer.

Pontius Pilate Solo singer.

Mary Magdalene Solo singer (optional).

Two other women Mime (duet singers – optional).

'Audience' / chorus As many as you have available can take part. Singing and small (optional) miming parts, eg. house builders, seeds, robbers, priest, Levite, Chief Priests, soldiers/guards, etc. Also some opportunities for dance.

SET & PROPS

The period is intended to be late 19th Century America (Mark Twain era), although it could be set in a more contemporary context.

If you wish to create a 19th Century American set, the scene could be a small town square. You might choose to use white fencing – steam boat painted in the distance, house front with a veranda, shop fronts with awning typical of the period, saloon bar with typical swing doors.

A travelling theatre group has just arrived, and as this is the focus for the action it is important to have some kind of painted wagon centre stage, ideally they typical horse-drawn 'cowboy' style wagon of the period. This could have the words 'The Gospel Show' boldly emblazoned upon it!

Benches angled towards the audience either side of the wagon provide seating for the 'audience' within the show; action takes place in front of these.

COSTUMES

These can be very simple. The majority of children will be able to wear jeans and checked shirt, perhaps with braces. Those with long hair could wear it in plaits. Girls might wear full skirts. To mark them out as the travelling show, actors, the 4 hosts could wear brightly coloured waistcoats or hats. The four assistants could all be dressed in matching style and the same bright colour.

Fisherman – stripey t-shirts over trousers, black boots, coiled rope of a shoulder, sou'westers or similar. Jesus – all in white (shirt and trousers or robes). Judas – black shirt. Pontius Pilate – tunic/cloak.

PROPS

Most scenes can be effectively worked through mime alone, but some props may be felt to be useful.

Jo's Mother does need a picnic basket, and the assistants need a drum and cymbals.

Fishermen scene: fishing net would add to the effect. (Sports netting, or the kind used for hay baling, would be effective. Bread for the Last Supper. Cloak and crown or thorns are needed for Jesus.

Props for volunteers: Boots, sou'westers, nets for fishermen scene.

Bucket, spade, hammer, chisel, for house-building parable.

Different coloured cloaks for priest, Levite and Samaritan.

Black eye-mask for Barabbas.

Roman helmets, spears for soldiers who take Jesus from the garden.

DIRECTOR'S OVERVIEW

People move into the performing area, ad lib. The Gospel Show hosts emerge from the wagon, and rustle up an audience. Jo quickly emerges as an inquisitive child, who needs lots of answers.

The show begins, and the hosts start to tell the story of Jesus.

<i>Tr 1 / 16</i>	<i>The Gospel Show p 8 /29</i> Jesus began to gather disciples.
<i>Tr 2 / 17</i>	<i>Cast Out Your Nets p 9 /33</i> Peter took more persuading than the others
<i>Tr 3 / 18</i>	<i>Walk Upon The Water p 10 /37</i> Jesus healed the sick.
<i>Tr 4 / 19</i>	<i>Once In a Dream p 12 /41</i> Jesus told stories with special meaning.
<i>Tr 5 / 20</i>	<i>The Housebuilders p 15 /46</i> He taught that people should care about each other.
<i>Tr 6 / 21</i>	<i>The Good Samaritan / Learn To Give p 16 /49</i> He performed miracles.
<i>Tr 7 / 22</i>	<i>The Biggest Ever Take-Away p 17 /56</i>

	Jesus rode into Jerusalem.
Tr 8 / 23	<i>Into Jerusalem</i> p 18 /60
	Judas struck a deal – the price of his betrayal of Jesus.
Tr 9 / 24	<i>What Is It Worth?</i> p 20 /65
	He invited His disciples to a special meal, and predicted His betrayal.
Tr 10 / 25	<i>The Last Supper</i> p 20 /68
	Judas betrayed Jesus. <i>Tr 28 Instrumental – King of The Jews</i>
	Pontius Pilate questioned Jesus
Tr 11 / 27	<i>I'm Sick Of His Name</i> p 24 /71
	The crowd chose between Barabbas and Jesus
Tr 13 / 28	<i>Who Will You Choose?</i> p 25 /74
	Jesus was taken to be crucified.
Tr 13 28	<i>King Of The Jews</i> p 25 /76
	Resurrection
Tr 14 / 29	<i>Roll Back The Stone</i> P 27 /80
	Finale
Tr 15 / 30	<i>The Gospel Show – reprise</i> p 28 /86

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