

## **ALL RIGHTS RESERVED**

**Copyright Protection.** This play (the “Play”) is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all countries with which the United States has reciprocal copyright relations, whether through bilateral or multilateral treaties or otherwise, and including, but not limited to, all countries covered by the Pan-American Copyright Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention, and the Berne Convention.

**Reservation of Rights.** All rights to this Play are strictly reserved, including, without limitation, professional and amateur stage performance rights; motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video, and sound recording rights; rights to all other forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction now known or yet to be invented, such as CD-ROM, CD-I, DVD, photocopying, and information storage and retrieval systems; and the rights of translation into non-English languages.

**Performance Licensing and Royalty Payments.** Amateur and stock performance rights to this Play are controlled exclusively by Playscripts, Inc. (“Playscripts”). No amateur or stock production groups or individuals may perform this Play without obtaining advance written permission from Playscripts. Required royalty fees for performing this Play are specified online at the Playscripts website ([www.playscripts.com](http://www.playscripts.com)). Such royalty fees may be subject to change without notice. Although this book may have been obtained for a particular licensed performance, such performance rights, if any, are not transferable. Required royalties must be paid every time the Play is performed before any audience, whether or not it is presented for profit and whether or not admission is charged. All licensing requests and inquiries concerning amateur and stock performance rights should be addressed to Playscripts (see contact information on opposite page).

Inquiries concerning all other rights should be addressed to Playscripts, as well; such inquiries will be communicated to the author and the author's agent, as applicable.

**Restriction of Alterations.** There shall be no deletions, alterations, or changes of any kind made to the Play, including the changing of character gender, the cutting of dialogue, or the alteration of objectionable language, unless directly authorized by Playscripts. The title of the Play shall not be altered.

**Author Credit.** Any individual or group receiving permission to produce this Play is required to give credit to the author as the sole and exclusive author of the Play. This obligation applies to the title page of every program distributed in connection with performances of the Play, and in any instance that the title of the Play appears for purposes of advertising, publicizing, or otherwise exploiting the Play and/or a production thereof. The name of the author must appear on a separate line, in which no other name appears, immediately beneath the title and of a font size at least 50% as large as the largest letter used in the title of the Play. No person, firm, or entity may receive credit larger or more prominent than that accorded the author. The name of the author may not be abbreviated or otherwise altered from the form in which it appears in this Play.

**Publisher Attribution.** All programs, advertisements, and other printed material distributed or published in connection with the amateur or stock production of the Play shall include the following notice:

**Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.  
([www.playscripts.com](http://www.playscripts.com))**

**Prohibition of Unauthorized Copying.** Any unauthorized copying of this book or excerpts from this book is strictly forbidden by law. Except as otherwise permitted by applicable law, no part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means now known or yet to be invented, including, without limitation, photocopying or scanning, without prior permission from Playscripts.

**Statement of Non-affiliation.** This Play may include references to brand names and trademarks owned by third parties, and may include references to public figures. Playscripts is not necessarily affiliated with these public figures, or with the owners of such trademarks and brand names. Such references are included solely for parody, political comment, or other permitted purposes.

**Permissions for Sound Recordings and Musical Works.** This Play may contain directions calling for the performance of a portion, or all, of a musical work, or performance of a sound recording of a musical work. Playscripts has not obtained permissions to perform such works. The producer of this Play is advised to obtain such permissions, if required in the context of the production. The producer is directed to the websites of the U.S. Copyright Office ([www.copyright.gov](http://www.copyright.gov)), ASCAP ([www.ascap.com](http://www.ascap.com)), BMI ([www.bmi.com](http://www.bmi.com)), and NMPA ([www.nmpa.org](http://www.nmpa.org)) for further information on the need to obtain permissions, and on procedures for obtaining such permissions.

## The Rules in Brief

- 1) Do NOT perform this Play without obtaining prior permission from Playscripts, and without paying the required royalty.
- 2) Do NOT photocopy, scan, or otherwise duplicate any part of this book.
- 3) Do NOT alter the text of the Play, change a character's gender, delete any dialogue, or alter any objectionable language, unless explicitly authorized by Playscripts.
- 4) DO provide the required credit to the author and the required attribution to Playscripts in all programs and promotional literature associated with any performance of this Play.

*For more details on these and other rules, see the opposite page.*

## Copyright Basics

This Play is protected by United States and international copyright law. These laws ensure that playwrights are rewarded for creating new and vital dramatic work, and protect them against theft and abuse of their work.

A play is a piece of property, fully owned by the playwright, just like a house or car. You must obtain permission to use this property, and must pay a royalty fee for the privilege—*whether or not you charge an admission fee*. Playscripts collects these required payments on behalf of the author.

**Anyone who violates an author's copyright is liable as a copyright infringer under United States and international law.** Playscripts and the author are entitled to institute legal action for any such infringement, which can subject the infringer to actual damages, statutory damages, and attorneys' fees. A court may impose statutory damages of up to \$150,000 for willful copyright infringements. U.S. copyright law also provides for possible criminal sanctions. Visit the website of the U.S. Copyright Office ([www.copyright.gov](http://www.copyright.gov)) for more information.

**THE BOTTOM LINE:** If you break copyright law, you are robbing a playwright and opening yourself to expensive legal action. Follow the rules, and when in doubt, ask us.

Playscripts, Inc.  
325 W. 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 305  
New York, NY 10018

Phone: 1-866-NEW-PLAY (639-7529)  
Email: [info@playscripts.com](mailto:info@playscripts.com)  
Web: [www.playscripts.com](http://www.playscripts.com)

# ONE-ACT RHYMES FOR BIBLE TIMES

by Peter Bloedel

The Ten Lepers .....	7
Jonah and the Fish.....	13
Three Men in the Furnace .....	20
A Sick Woman and Jairus's Daughter.....	29
The Tower of Babel .....	37

## **Author's Note**

Each of these plays was devised for a program based at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Mankato, Minnesota called Theatre Bible School. The idea of the program is this: Students from 4th to 8th grade have three days to learn a play. On the fourth and fifth days they go out to day-cares and churches to perform the plays for younger children and families. This program is a very popular means of outreach for the church and is a fun way for aspiring young actors to tell the Bible's good news to others.

The plays in this collection can be very quickly learned. Each play has a narrator who, according to the Theatre Bible School rules, is the only person who is allowed to have a script on-stage. The rest of the lines are divided into very manageable portions. This, coupled with the rhythmic meter and rhyme of each play, makes for some children's drama that is very accessible to directors and actors of all levels.

I hope you will have fun reading these...and then even more fun performing these plays.

Soli Deo Gloria.

# THE TEN LEPERS

## Cast of Characters

NARRATOR

LEPER DAN

JESUS

1 LEPER

2 LEPER

3 LEPER

4 LEPER

5 LEPER

6 LEPER

7 LEPER

8 LEPER (OLDER)

9 LEPER (OLDER)

A FEW DISCIPLES OF JESUS, who react but don't speak

*(Daytime in the desert.)*

*(NARRATOR stands to the side of the playing area, but in full view of the audience. He/she is something of a storyteller and a main character of the play.)*

**NARRATOR.** A long time ago when God sent his son  
To take care of all of his work to be done,  
There lived ten poor souls who were sad as can be,  
Their bodies were all covered with leprosy.  
Leprosy is a disease, it is said,  
That puts sores on your skin, from your toes to your head.

**1 LEPER.** We all have leprosy,

**2 LEPER.** So we're called lepers.

**3 LEPER.** People are scared of us,

**4 LEPER.** We have no helpers.

**5 LEPER.** No one will play with us,

**6 LEPER.** No one will love us,

**7 LEPER.** Even our God up in heaven above us.

**LEPER DAN.** *(Concealed by the group:)* But haven't you heard  
about this man named Jesus?

They say he's God's son who has come to redeem us.

**NARRATOR.** This made a few of the lepers quite angry.

**8 LEPER (OLDER).** I've been sick a long time, what could possibly  
save me?

**9 LEPER (OLDER).** What a bold question. What a strong claim.

**8 LEPER (OLDER).** Which leper said it? What is his name?

**NARRATOR.** They looked to the South.

*(They look to one side.)*

**NARRATOR.** They looked to the North.

*(They look to the other side.)*

**8 LEPER/ 9 LEPER.** *(Together:)* The leper who said it needs to

come fourth!

**LEPER DAN.** I made the statement. I posed the question.

**NARRATOR.** Said a leper named Dan, with no hesitation.

**8 LEPER (OLDER).** What do you know, leper called Dan, about the true God? You're a Samaritan!

**NARRATOR.** Now Samaritans were not the friends of the Jews. They didn't hang out, they had different views.

**9 LEPER (OLDER).** We are all Jews of one single mind set. You are a Gentile and haven't been right yet.

**NARRATOR.** But some lepers started defending young Dan, In spite of his being a Samaritan.

**1 LEPER.** Young Dan may be right. I've heard of this notion Concerning Christ Jesus's fervent devotion.

**2 LEPER.** He's God's son! He's come to give men salvation...

**3 LEPER.** Both to the Jewish and Gentile nations.

**4 LEPER.** That's isn't all, for I've heard it said He can heal up the sick and raise men from the dead.

**5 LEPER.** I've also heard news that he's traveling this way.

**6 LEPER.** I don't think he's far.

**7 LEPER.** We could see him today.

**NARRATOR.** Even the old lepers started to see it.

**8 LEPER AND 9 LEPER.** Well, if this is the truth, then we ought to believe it.

**8 LEPER (OLDER).** Let's get a move on.

**9 LEPER (OLDER).** Let's make it our mission To see if this Jesus can heal our affliction.

**NARRATOR.** So they set out on a difficult Journey,  
The dry wind was blowing, the hot sun was burning.  
Their journey was dismal, and it was long,  
It would be hard for the fit and the strong.  
But these folks were sick, they were lepers, remember?  
Their bodies had sores that hurt like hot embers.  
Their limbs were weary and everything hurt.  
They had sand in their eyes, in their sores, in their shirts.

**6 LEPER.** How far must we go?

**7 LEPER.** I don't think I can make it.

**8 LEPER (OLDER).** I hope this is worth it.

**9 LEPER (OLDER).** What if he fakes it?

**LEPER DAN.** Believe in him and the rewards will be great.  
Have faith he can cleanse us from our sickly state.

**NARRATOR.** So they continued their difficult walk.  
To see the one man who could make the dumb talk,  
Who could make the lame get up and carry their bed,  
Who could make the blind see, and raise men from the dead.  
Then in the distance...

**1 LEPER.** I see him!

**2 LEPER.** It must be!

**3 LEPER.** He fits the description we've heard of quite plainly.

**4 LEPER.** He's with his disciples!

**5 LEPER.** It has to be him!

**6 LEPER.** Let's get his attention, the day's turning dim.

**NARRATOR.** They all called together, through wind blowing dust,

**GROUP OF LEPERS.** (*All together:*) Jesus, have mercy, have pity on us.

**NARRATOR.** Jesus heard their faint call from a distance,  
And stood up to give the poor group some assistance.  
Back to the lepers in a voice filled with peace

He said...

**JESUS.** Go and show yourselves to the priests.

**NARRATOR.** Priests in those days gave body inspections,  
Declaring folks “clean” who were cured from infections.  
The lepers were thrilled with the words of Christ Jesus,

**7 LEPER.** Could that mean this leprosy soon will leave us?

**NARRATOR.** They went to the priests to get the good word,  
Then one of them yelled...

**1 LEPER.** Hey! We’re already cured!

**NARRATOR.** They stood and they looked at each other to see...

**3 LEPER.** Our skin, it is healed!

**GROUP OF LEPERS.** No more leprosy!

**2 LEPER.** It’s Awesome!

**4 LEPER.** Fantastic!

**5 LEPER.** Amazing!

**GROUP OF LEPERS.** It’s Great!

**7 LEPER.** Let’s go show our friends.

**6 LEPER.** I can’t hardly wait.

**NARRATOR.** The ex-lepers were joyful, each one feeling keen.  
They gave one last Hurrah...

**GROUP OF LEPERS.** Hurrah!

**NARRATOR.** ...and then left the scene.  
All except Dan. You remember young Dan,  
The one not a Jew but a Samaritan?  
Dan, he was thrilled like the others, it’s true,  
But he thought a thank-you to Jesus was due.  
He ran back to Jesus and fell down before him,  
And worshipped and thanked him...

**LEPER DAN.** Dear Jesus from heaven,  
You are the Lord, the true God’s only son,

**PAGES HAVE BEEN CUT FROM THIS SCENE.  
THE PLAY CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE.**

In order to protect our associated authors against copyright infringement, we cannot currently present full electronic scripts.

To purchase books with the full text, and to apply for performance rights, click ORDER or go back to:

*[www.playscripts.com](http://www.playscripts.com)*

# JONAH AND THE FISH

## Cast of Characters

NARRATOR

JONAH

CHORUS:

VOICE OF GOD

NINEVITE #1

NINEVITE #2

NINEVITE #3

NINEVITE #4

NINEVITE #5

NINEVITE #6

SEA CAPTAIN

SAILOR #1

SAILOR #2

SAILOR #3

SAILOR #4

SAILOR #5

*(An empty stage.)*

**NARRATOR.** Once in our history, there was a city,  
Full of nice people, warm, kind, and pretty.  
But after some time went by, things weren't so nice,  
The people there gave into evil and vice.  
They'd lie to each other. They'd drink and start fights,  
And plot against God, in the darkness of night.

**NINEVITE #1.** We don't need God!

**NINEVITE #2.** We can do as we please!

**NINEVITE #3.** We just won't listen to what God decrees!

**NINEVITE #4.** We like to be wicked!

**NINEVITE #5.** So we live in spite!

**NINEVITE #6.** We are corrupted!

**NINEVITES ALL.** Yes, we are the Ninevites!

**NARRATOR.** The city of Nineveh gave into spleen,  
And God picked a person who could intervene.  
Jonah the prophet received the Lord's call...

**VOICE OF GOD.** *(This could be an individual, or it could be handled by the members of the CHORUS speaking in unison:)* Jonah, I want you to  
preach to them all!

Go now to Nineveh, without delay.

Tell them they need to repent of their ways.

**NARRATOR.** After receiving this call from the Lord,  
Jonah reflected on what he had heard.

**JONAH.** God sees me preaching in Nineveh City,  
But why should those wicked folks all get God's pity?  
I don't want to go, so I think I'll flee,  
And hide from the Lord on a ship out to sea.

**NARRATOR.** So "J" ran away, he tried hard to vanish,  
And got on a sailing ship headed for Tarshish.  
The sailors were strong!

**JONAH.** Wow! These guys look tough!

**CAPTAIN.** Hey You! Go Below! These seas can get rough.

**SAILOR #1.** But they don't scare us!

**SAILOR #2.** 'Cuz we're brawny and brave.

**SAILOR #3.** We're the kings of the sea.

**SAILOR #4.** And we rule the waves.

**NARRATOR.** So Jonah went down below to get some sleep,  
But God sent a storm that made those sailors weep.

*(The storm hits.)*

**SAILORS ALL.** *(Crying, and tumbling across the deck:)* AAAAAAAAAA-  
AAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

**SAILOR #5.** This is the worst-est, most bad storm we've seen.

**SAILOR #1.** The waters are choppy. We're all turning green.

**SAILOR #2.** This doesn't look good!

**SAILOR #3.** Are you kidding? This stinks!

**SAILOR #4.** Throw out some cargo. We're starting to sink.

*(The SAILORS continue to panic.)*

**NARRATOR.** Jonah was foolish to think he could run  
From the God who created the moon and the sun.  
God sent the storm because it was his way  
Of teaching old Jonah a lesson that day.  
The Captain found Jonah and said...

**CAPTAIN.** Wake up, Hebrew!  
We're in a storm and there's no place to flee to.  
It can squash our little ship like a grape,  
So get on your knees and pray we escape.

**NARRATOR.** The sailors then all played a name picking game.  
They thought...

**CAPTAIN.** At least then we'll have some one to blame.

**SAILORS ALL.** (*In this “picking game” fingers can point to anyone, until the word “Mona” is uttered. Then all finger need to point at JONAH.:*)  
Eenie, Meenie, Miny, Mona...

**NARRATOR.** Every last finger was pointing at Jonah.

**SAILOR #5.** Tell us now Hebrew, with all sincerity,  
Who is responsible for this calamity.

**JONAH.** It’s true! I am Hebrew, I’ve been one since birth.  
I worship the God who created the Earth.  
He’s the Almighty, and He made these waves.  
And now He wants me, because I disobeyed.

**NARRATOR.** Just then the waves worsened, and the winds grew  
stronger,  
The ship and its crew couldn’t take it much longer.

**CAPTAIN.** Listen now, friend, we don’t want to drown.  
What must we do to calm the sea down?

**JONAH.** I’ll tell you exactly the one remedy.  
Pick me up and throw me into the sea.

**SAILOR #1.** Whoa! We can’t do that. We’re sailors, not pirates.

**JONAH.** No! You must do it! In fact, I desire it.

**NARRATOR.** No one there wanted to throw Jonah in.

**SAILOR #2.** That would be murder!

**SAILOR #3.** That would be sin!

**NARRATOR.** The crew did their best to row back to the land...

**SAILORS ALL.** (*Rowing:*) Stroke! Stroke! Stroke

**NARRATOR.** But the weather grew wilder—all by the Lord’s  
hand.

**JONAH.** I tell you the only way to calm the sea  
Is by throwing me out. The Lord only wants me.

**NARRATOR.** The sailors, at last, obeyed Jonah’s request.  
They asked God’s forgiveness, and went on with the rest.  
They picked up poor Jonah, and counted to three...

**SAILORS.** One...Two... Three!

**NARRATOR.** ...And on that third number, threw him in the sea.  
As soon as they finished that difficult task,  
The wind stopped it's blowing. The sea looked like glass.  
The sailors, astonished, all stood there in awe...

**SAILORS ALL.** We fear and give praise to Jonah's great God.

**NARRATOR.** Meanwhile, old Jonah had sunk to great depths.

**JONAH.** *(Swimming:)* My life must be over. I've breathed my last  
breath.

**NARRATOR.** But God wasn't ready to take Jonah's soul.  
He sent a big fish that would swallow him whole.

*(A "fish" apparatus is brought out that indicates JONAH is now in  
the belly of a great fish.)*

**NARRATOR.** So there Jonah sat in the fish's big tummy.

**JONAH.** I wish it were brighter, and a little less scummy.

**NARRATOR.** But Jonah knew everything happened this way  
'Cuz he disobeyed God, and then ran away.

**JONAH.** I deserve to be here for ignoring God's wish.

**NARRATOR.** For three days and nights Jonah lived in a fish.  
From watery depths Jonah said many prayers.

**JONAH.** I know God still loves me. I know He still cares.  
*(Praying:)* Lord, from the sea, my life you've preserved.  
This is all so much more than I deserve.  
Forgive me. I've misunderstood your great plan,  
And I will make good, Lord, on what you command.

**NARRATOR.** Just then the "big fish tummy" began to rumble,  
Sending old Jonah on a fish tummy tumble.  
The big fishy lurched and it swam to the surface,  
And shot Jonah out like a Wimbledon service.  
Jonah flew right through the air like a phoenix...

**JONAH.** *(To the audience:)* It's faster than boating, and three times  
more scenic.

**PAGES HAVE BEEN CUT FROM THIS SCENE.  
THE PLAY CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE.**

In order to protect our associated authors against copyright infringement, we cannot currently present full electronic scripts.

To purchase books with the full text, and to apply for performance rights, click ORDER or go back to:

*[www.playscripts.com](http://www.playscripts.com)*

# THREE MEN IN THE FURNACE

## Cast of Characters

NARRATOR

KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR

SHADRACH

MESHACH

ABEDNEGO

GUARD #1

GUARD #2

BABYLONIAN #1

BABYLONIAN #2

BABYLONIAN #3

OTHER BABYLONIANS

GAZ (no lines)

ANGEL (no lines)

**NARRATOR.** The empire of Babylon was getting things done,  
By overthrowing less powerful kingdoms.  
They took what they wanted with soldiers and force,  
And conquered the lands that they found in their course.

*(Enter KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR.)*

**NARRATOR.** At the top was a ruler, a king without measure.  
He had a long name. It was Nebuchadnezzar.  
That name's a mouthful, but he liked it fine...

**KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR.** Nobody's name is as awesome as  
mine!

It gets respect. It has lots of letters,  
And since I'm the king—my name's doubly more better.  
I'm best of the best, the greatest of all!

**NARRATOR.** The king had an ego that wasn't too small.  
What he said was law...

**KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR.** I will be obeyed!  
People will heed me, they should be afraid.  
Afraid of my power, my absolute might.  
They shouldn't ask if it's wrong, or if it's right.  
What I say...you do! If you don't then I'll catch you.  
Even if I say to worship a statue.  
Then that's what the people will do altogether,  
To show their allegiance to Nebuchadnezzar!

**NARRATOR.** The king then got quiet. You could hear a cricket.  
Then he leaped up and yelled...

**KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR.** That's just the ticket!  
What better way to check my kingdom's loyalty,  
I'll make them all worship a statue of royalty.

**NARRATOR.** The king quickly summoned his chief engineer.

*(Enter GAZ. The engineer.)*

**NARRATOR.** His name was Gaz, and he had a big beard.

**KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR.** Gaz with the beard, do as you're told.

Make me a statue. Make it with gold.

Let all in this province look up to the sky,

To see this great image reach ninety feet high.

*(GAZ exits, and we hear hammering and sawing noises from off stage.)*

**NARRATOR.** Gaz and his men quickly got working—  
Hammering, sawing, banging and torking.

*(Enter the PEOPLE OF BABYLON. They stare out over the audience.)*

**NARRATOR.** Then finally the statue stood, shiny and new,  
And all of the people looked up and said...

**PEOPLE OF BABYLON.** Oooooooooooh!

**BABYLONIAN #1.** It's so tall!

**BABYLONIAN #2.** It's so shiny!

**PEOPLE OF BABYLON.** Look at it glow!

**KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR.** Now, listen up people, here's what  
you should know.

**NARRATOR.** The king made up a new rule for the region.

**KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR.** This is the first day of your new  
religion.

Whatever you worshipped before, just forget it!

I've found you a god, and it's time that you met it.

To this image of gold you see towering high,

You must all bow down...if you don't want to die.

When you hear flutes, horns, pipes and strings,

Zithers and harps and all musical things,

That will be your cue to drop to the ground,

To turn to the statue, and pray, and bow down.

This is now law. If you refuse to do this,

You will be thrown in the fiery furnace.

*(The fiery furnace is exposed.)*

**PEOPLE OF BABYLON.** The fiery furnace!

**NARRATOR.** Gasp! The Babylonians.  
They quivered...

*(BABYLONIANS quiver.)*

**NARRATOR.** They shook...

*(BABYLONIANS shake.)*

**NARRATOR.** Complete pandemonium.

*(BABYLONIANS run around in circles looking very worried.)*

**NARRATOR.** Now this was no oven made for baking bread,  
But a room full of fire—blaze orange and red.

**BABYLONIAN #1.** If anyone steps in the furnace alive,  
It's known far and wide that they couldn't survive.

**NARRATOR.** Now living in Babylon at the same time,  
Were three Jewish men...

**SHADRACH / MESHACH / ABEDNEGO.** We won't change our  
minds!

**SHADRACH.** There is only one God...

**MESHACH.** Just one that is true.

**ABEDNEGO.** It's our God in heaven,

**SHADRACH / MESHACH / ABEDNEGO.** Not this gold statue.

**ABEDNEGO.** We won't forsake God.

**MESHACH.** To the furnace we may go.

**SHADRACH.** Or our names aren't Shadrach,

**MESHACH.** Meshach,

**ABEDNEGO.** And Abednego!

*(We hear the sound of many instruments, bleating out a big sound.)*

**NARRATOR.** Just then it happened, instruments played.  
The signal was sounded and people obeyed.

Everyone bowed just as low as they could,  
But Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego stood.

**BABYLONIAN #1.** What's going on here?

**BABYLONIAN #2.** Why don't they bow?

**BABYLONIAN #3.** Those Jews are still standing.

**PEOPLE OF BABYLON.** For crying out loud!

**BABYLONIAN #1.** Hey fellas, get down here!

**BABYLONIAN #2.** What's this all about?

**BABYLONIAN #3.** The king's gonna look...

**PEOPLE OF BABYLON.** And you sorta stick out.

**SHADRACH / MESHACH / ABEDNEGO.** We're not afraid!

**BABYLONIAN #1.** Hey, this isn't a joke!

**PEOPLE OF BABYLON.** That furnace is hot! It'll turn you to  
smoke!

**SHADRACH.** Our God is almighty!

**MESHACH.** He's all around us!

**ABEDNEGO.** That statue is no god, and it can't protect us.

*(Two GUARDS over hear this, and go to the KING.)*

**NARRATOR.** The three Jews stood out, but things got more rough,  
'Cuz there were some guards who told the king stuff.

**GUARD #1.** O King, we bow down to your image of gold,  
But there're three who don't, their behavior is bold.

**GUARD #2.** They say the statue we worship is lame!

**KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR.** Who says that stuff? Tell me their  
names!

**GUARD #1.** They are three Jews, who I'm sure that you know.

**GUARD #2.** They're called Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

**KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR.** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,

Hey!  
I know those three guys, they all work for me.  
I've made them administrators to assist me,  
But how can I rule when assistants resist me.

**NARRATOR.** King Nebuchadnezzar commanded his men.

**KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR.** Bring me the Jews. I've got questions for them.

*(The GUARDS back away from the KING, pathetically bowing as they go.)*

**GUARD #1.** Yes, sir!

**GUARD #2.** Right away, sir!

**BOTH.** That's just what we'll do.

**GUARD #1.** We just want to do the stuff you tell us to.

**GUARD #2.** We think you're the best!

**BOTH.** You know just what you're doing!

**KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR.** You'll go to the furnace if you don't get moving.

*(The GUARDS run away.)*

**NARRATOR.** The guards ran away and found the three men,  
So that Nebuchadnezzar could see them again.  
The Jews were led in, and they had to kneel down.  
The king wasn't happy, he had a big frown.

**KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR.** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego,  
do tell,

Is there some reason that you can't bend down well?  
The people of Babylon all do my bidding,  
I said—worship this statue, and I wasn't kidding.  
I'll give you one last chance. When you hear the sound,  
If you're ready to worship and pray and bow down,  
To this image I've made, then I'll spare you today.  
If not, to the furnace you'll go...right away!  
Then I'd like to see what God in the land,

Will rescue you all from my mighty hand.

**NARRATOR.** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood up.

**SHADRACH.** O King, that gold statue you recently put up,  
Is nothing compared to the great God of Israel,

**MESHACH.** The creator of Heaven and Earth, He's for real!

**ABEDNEGO.** If we are thrown into that great blazing furnace,  
Our great God in heaven can certainly save us.

**NARRATOR.** This made the king just as mad as a hatter,  
If he started bad, then he just became badder.  
The fire in the furnace was unquenched by water,  
'Cuz the king ordered it to be seven times hotter.  
He bound the three Jews using his strongest men,  
Then opened the furnace and threw the three in.

*(A fourth PERSON in a white robe appears in the furnace with  
SHADRACH, MESHACH and ABEDNEGO.)*

**NARRATOR.** That's right I said three. Three, and not more.  
But, Nebuchadnezzar said:

**KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR.** I think I see four!  
We threw three men in, right?

**GUARDS.** ...Yes, sir...

**KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR.** ...Then why,  
Do I count four of them? Who's the new guy?

**BABYLONIAN #1.** They aren't even burning!

**BABYLONIAN #2.** Their hands are unbound!

**BABYLONIAN #3.** They're perfectly fine!

**PEOPLE OF BABYLON.** And, they're walking around!

**NARRATOR.** The king was astonished, his mouth hung wide  
open,

**KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR.** I just can't believe it, they're not  
even smokin'.

The God these men have is the God of all truth.

**PAGES HAVE BEEN CUT FROM THIS SCENE.  
THE PLAY CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE.**

In order to protect our associated authors against copyright infringement, we cannot currently present full electronic scripts.

To purchase books with the full text, and to apply for performance rights, click ORDER or go back to:

*[www.playscripts.com](http://www.playscripts.com)*

# A SICK WOMAN AND JAIRUS'S DAUGHTER

## Cast of Characters

*Doubling of characters is permitted (and encouraged).*

NARRATOR

JESUS

DISCIPLE #1

DISCIPLE #2

DISCIPLE #3

CROWD MEMBER #1

CROWD MEMBER #2

CROWD MEMBER #3

CROWD MEMBER #4

CROWD MEMBER #5

CROWD MEMBER #6

CROWD MEMBER #7

CROWD MEMBER #8

JAIRUS

WOMAN WITH FAITH

MESSENGER TO JAIRUS #1

MESSENGER TO JAIRUS #2

MOURNER #1

MOURNER #2

MOURNER #3

MOURNER #4

MOURNER #5

MOURNER #6

MOURNER #7

JAIRUS'S WIFE

JAIRUS'S DAUGHTER

*(NARRATOR stands to the side of the playing area, but in full view of the audience. He/she is something of a storyteller and a main character of the play.)*

**NARRATOR.** Jesus of Nazareth's own reputation  
Grew and He soon was a local sensation.  
People would flock to the man they knew well  
Who did wondrous things and had good news to tell.  
Now this doesn't mean that there weren't a few  
Who had trouble with Jesus and his new world-view.  
They'd mock and they'd try to trick him if they could,  
In hope that their traps might make him look less good.  
But those aren't the people this story's about.  
This one's about some folks who didn't have doubt.  
These people had faith in what Jesus could do,  
And for the faithful, he always comes through.  
Join us as we set this story afloat,  
When Jesus had just stepped foot out of a boat.

**CROWD MEMBER #1.** Hey Look!

**CROWD MEMBER #2.** Over There!

**CROWD MEMBER #3.** Over Where?

**ALL CROWD MEMBERS.** On the Beach!!

**CROWD MEMBER #4.** It's Jesus!

**CROWD MEMBER #5.** Just off the boat!

**ALL CROWD MEMBERS.** Let's hear him preach!

**NARRATOR.** The crowd gathered 'round...

**DISCIPLE #1.** Lord, they're sure packed in tightly.

**NARRATOR.** But Jesus addressed the great throng most politely.

**JESUS.** In my Father's house there are many nice rooms.  
I'll go to prepare a place there for you soon.

**NARRATOR.** But then came a man who was sadder and blue.  
He dropped to his knees...

**ALL CROWD MEMBERS.** What's the matter with you?

**JAIRUS.** Dear Jesus, I need your help. My name is Jairus.  
My daughter is dying...must be some kind of virus.  
She's only twelve, and I know on your way  
If you put your hands on her, she'd be okay.  
I have faith in you, Jesus. I know you can give  
Healing to her so that she can still live.

**JESUS.** Bring me to the girl. I'll give her assistance.

**JAIRUS.** Follow me this way. My home is some distance.

**NARRATOR.** So Jesus and Jairus traveled along,  
But they weren't alone 'cause along came the throng.

**CROWD MEMBER #6.** Let's go and see this, what Jesus might do.

**CROWD MEMBER #7.** I've never known anyone any one like him,  
have you?

**CROWD MEMBER #8.** He eases men's souls, when things look the  
bleakest.

**CROWD MEMBER #1.** He speaks to the heart.

**CROWD MEMBER #2.** He's so wise!

**ALL CROWD MEMBERS.** The unique-est!

**CROWD MEMBER #3.** He tells people they should love their  
enemies.

**CROWD MEMBER #4.** He makes the blind see, and cures men  
from disease.

**CROWD MEMBER #5.** Who is this man who can make us all rave  
thus?

**CROWD MEMBER #6.** They say he's God's son who has come  
down to save us.

**CROWD MEMBER #7.** God's son... I believe it!

**CROWD MEMBER #8.** He's more than a man!

**ALL CROWD MEMBERS.** Let's move in closer, as close as we can!

**NARRATOR.** So, they bunched around Jesus as he walked along,

And traveled together in one crowded glom.

*(The group squishes tightly together.)*

**CROWD MEMBER #1.** It takes coordination to follow this closely.

**DISCIPLE #2.** No offense, gang, but this walk is too cozy.

**NARRATOR.** The disciples, they tried hard to spread the group  
out,

So that there'd be room just to breathe in and out.

**DISCIPLE #3.** Perhaps we could all just space-out a wee bit.

**DISCIPLE #1.** If there's a solution to tripping...that's it!

**CROWD MEMBER #2.** We see your idea, and it's not a bad one,  
But that wouldn't benefit us in the long run.

**CROWD MEMBER #3.** We've come to see next what Jesus will do.  
If we lag behind then we'll lose our good view.

**CROWD MEMBER #4.** So we're gonna stay just as close as we can.

**CROWD MEMBERS #5 / #6.** We don't want to miss any miracles,  
Man!

**NARRATOR.** They continued like this for a while, or more  
Without any notion of what was in store.

Nobody noticed when they were all loud,

That a woman had just joined the tightly squished crowd.

She was another sad person of tears,

With an illness that plagued her for twelve long, long years.

On bewildered doctors, she emptied her purse,

But they didn't help her. In fact, she got worse.

**WOMAN WITH FAITH.** I heard that Jesus was passing this way,  
So I came to see him on this very day.

I know if I touch a small part of his clothing,

That I will be healed, and freed from my suffering.

**NARRATOR.** So, she snuck up behind him, and reached out her  
hand,

And just touched the clothes of the most holy man.

As soon as she did, she felt a great change,

For she was relieved of her suffering and pain.  
Then suddenly Jesus spoke up...

**JESUS.** Who just touched me?  
I just had the feeling of power go from me.

**DISCIPLE #2.** Lord, how can you ask “who touched you” just now,  
When all of these people are crowded around?

**DISCIPLE #3.** Surely, you’ve been touched almost constantly  
By all of the people here gathered you see.

**JESUS.** This was no bump, no nudge, or a tap,  
No graze, or collision, or something like that.  
This was no accident, it wasn’t worthless.  
This touch had faith, and it was on purpose.

**NARRATOR.** Jesus kept looking at all who were near.  
The woman, now healed, began trembling with fear.  
She knew what had happened. She knew she was better.  
And so she fell down at the feet of the savior.  
She told the whole truth...

**WOMAN WITH FAITH.** Jesus, I am the one!  
I didn’t mean any harm to be done.  
For twelve years I’ve dealt with this sickness, this plight.  
I didn’t think bothering you would be right.  
I knew if I touched you, that’d do the trick.  
Sure enough, here I am, no longer sick.

**JESUS.** Daughter, your faith has made you well today.  
Peace be with you as you go on your way.

*(The CROWD acts astonished.)*

**NARRATOR.** While he was still speaking, there came a report,  
With new news for Jairus, but not the good sort.

**MESSENGER TO JAIRUS #1.** Jairus, we’re sorry to come to you  
moping.  
Your daughter has died! There’s no use in hoping.

**MESSENGER TO JAIRUS #2.** Best to leave Jesus alone now and  
come.

He can't help her now. Death cannot be undone.

**NARRATOR.** Mortified, Jairus had started to grieve.  
But Jesus said:

**JESUS.** *(To JAIRUS:)* Don't be afraid. Just believe.

**NARRATOR.** Jesus continued toward Jairus's home,  
But he didn't let the whole crowded group come.  
He hand-picked a few of his closest disciples,  
And they came along because they were insightful.  
The tightly packed, crowded, squished group had all gone,  
But Jairus and Jesus and friends still pressed on.  
When they got close, there was just no mistakin'  
Which house was the house of their destination.  
There was weeping and wailing, and all of them cried.  
That's just what they did when they heard someone died.

**ALL MOURNERS.** *(Improvised cries of mourning—loud:)* Aah! Wah,  
Sob, Sniff!

**DISCIPLE #1.** We just got away from that tightly squashed crowd,  
And now here's another that's just way too loud!

**NARRATOR.** Back in those days it was common to rent  
Professional mourners to help you lament.

**ALL MOURNERS.** *(Improvised mourning—louder than before:)* Aah.  
Wah, Sob, Sniff!

**DISCIPLE #2.** It's just so loud here!

**DISCIPLE #3.** It makes my heart race!

**DISCIPLE #1.** I just about can't stand the noise of this place!

**MOURNER #1.** You would wail too if you had any manners.

**MOURNER #2.** Show some respect!

**MOURNER #3.** It's the volume that matters!

**DISCIPLE #2.** Grieving is more than a high volume level.

**DISCIPLE #3.** How 'bout soft music?

**DISCIPLE #1.** Or a candlelight vigil?

**MOURNER #4.** Look! We're the pros and we know how to do it.

**MOURNER #5.** When somebody dies, we help folks get through it.

**DISCIPLE #2.** Well I can appreciate...

**MOURNER #6.** (*Sees JAIRUS and interrupts DISCIPLE #2:*) One second, dear!

Jairus, we're sorry your daughter's not here!

**ALL MOURNERS.** (*Loudest:*) Ahh! Wah! Sob! Sniff!

**JESUS.** What's the commotion? Why all this wailing?

**MOURNER #7.** Haven't you heard that his daughter was failing?

**MOURNER #1.** And now she's dead.

**MOURNER #2.** That's why we weep.

**JESUS.** She isn't dead, she's just fallen asleep.

**MOURNER #3.** Fallen asleep!...and how would you know?

**MOURNER #4.** Her heart stopped beating an hour ago!

**MOURNER #5.** The doctors were here, and now they're all gone.

**MOURNER #6.** They all said she died, every last one!

**MOURNER #7.** Fallen asleep?!

**MOURNER #1.** Come on!

**MOURNER #2.** Give me a break!

**MOURNER #3.** We've heard some bold claims...

**ALL MOURNERS.** But yours takes the cake!

**NARRATOR.** They chuckled, they jeered, they laughed and they mocked.

**MOURNER #4.** The next thing he'll say is she'll wake up and walk.

**JESUS.** Are you ready, Jairus, for what I must do?

**JAIRUS.** Jesus, my wife and I have faith in you.

**JESUS.** Then let us go into the house to see her.

**PAGES HAVE BEEN CUT FROM THIS SCENE.  
THE PLAY CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE.**

In order to protect our associated authors against copyright infringement, we cannot currently present full electronic scripts.

To purchase books with the full text, and to apply for performance rights, click ORDER or go back to:

*[www.playscripts.com](http://www.playscripts.com)*

# THE TOWER OF BABEL

## Cast of Characters

*Doubling of characters is permitted.*

NARRATOR  
NOAH  
NOAH'S FAMILY  
VOICE OF GOD  
WANDERER #1  
WANDERER #2  
WANDERER #3  
WANDERER #4  
PRIDE MONGER #1  
PRIDE MONGER #2  
PRIDE MONGER #3  
QUESTIONER  
CITIZEN #1  
CITIZEN #2  
CITIZEN #3  
CITIZEN #4  
CITIZEN #5  
CITIZEN #6  
NIMROD  
BUILDER #1  
BUILDER #2  
BUILDER #3  
LABORER #1  
LABORER #2  
LABORER #3  
LUNCH CARRIER

*(The NARRATOR stands to the side of the playing area but is in full view of the audience. He/She is something of a storyteller and a main character in the play.)*

**NARRATOR.** You may recall in the world's vast history,  
The story of Noah and his "Ark of Mystery."  
This ark was a great ship, a big floating zoo.  
It saved Noah's family and animals too.

**ALL.** Saved them from what?

**NARRATOR.** ...You may ask out of habit!  
Well, that's a good question, and so we'll recap it.

*(ACTORS enter and start enacting the following.)*

**NARRATOR.** The world around Noah became rotten and odd.  
The people were wicked and didn't love God.  
So, God sent a flood to destroy all but Noah,  
And those who were in the ark, with him, below-a.

**NOAH.** The animals, and we have nothing to fear.

**NARRATOR.** God kept them safe on the ark for a year.  
When they left the ark, life started a-new.

**NOAH'S FAMILY.** The world is so beautiful...but we are so few!

**NARRATOR.** Then God said to Noah's group...

**VOICE OF GOD.** *(This can be handled by one actor or by having a number of cast members speaking in unison:)* Have lots of children!

**NOAH.** Well, we must get this human race running again.

**NARRATOR.** It took some time, but the family grew.  
Grandchildren came, and great-grandchildren too.  
Old Noah died, but the family remained,  
They moved from the mountains out into the plains.

**WANDERER #1.** Where are we walking?

**WANDERER #2.** We've spanned quite a gap!

**WANDERER #3.** Are we there yet?

**WANDERER #4.** Who knows?

**ALL WANDERERS TOGETHER.** We don't have a map!

**WANDERER #1.** Can we stop?

**WANDERER #2.** Are your feet hurting?

**WANDERER #3 / #4.** I know mine are!

**NARRATOR.** And that's where they settled...in a plain they called Shinar.

All of the people, the Earth's only nation,  
Spoke the same language, no need for translation.  
Yet, so it happens that sooner or later,  
People grow fickle before their Creator.  
God's blessings escape them, and so they appeal  
To self-pride and arrogance, sealing the deal.

**PRIDE MONGER #1.** Man, are we awesome!

**PRIDE MONGER #2.** We sure have done well.

**PRIDE MONGER #3.** There's no denying that we're pretty swell.

**QUESTIONER.** But what about God?

**PRIDE MONGER #3.** Hey, God's great.

**PRIDE MONGER #2.** We're still prayin'.

**PRIDE MONGER #1.** We're impressed with ourselves, that's all we're sayin'.

**NARRATOR.** This general attitude of self-ovation,  
Gave rise to a leader for this growing nation.  
A hunter. A warrior. A great man of might.

**CITIZEN #1.** He has great foresight...

**CITIZEN #2.** ...And man, can he fight!

**CITIZEN #3.** This man can lead us!

**CITIZEN #4.** He's just what we need!

**ALL CITIZENS.** Ninety-nine point nine percent guaranteed.

**NARRATOR.** This mighty man rose fast in power and status.  
A hunter of meat...

**CITIZEN #1.** ...He never eats lettuce.

**NARRATOR.** He soon became king of all Shinar alone,  
And that's where most people on Earth made their home.

**CITIZEN #1.** Hail to the king! To the great...hm...that's odd.  
What was his name?

**NARRATOR.** His name was...Nimrod.

**CITIZEN #2.** (*Chuckling:*) Nimrod? King Nimrod?

**CITIZEN #3.** Nimrod the King?

**CITIZEN #4.** We can't call him Nimrod. It just doesn't ring.

**CITIZEN #1.** Yeah—that's no good, Nimrod is not a good word.

**NIMROD.** (*Threatening:*) You don't like my name? Take it up with  
my sword.

**CITIZEN #1.** (*Taking the threat:*) I love the name Nimrod.

**CITIZEN #4.** (*Intimidated:*) I guess it does ring.

**CITIZEN #2 / #3.** That's what we plan to name all of our offspring.

**NARRATOR.** Nimrod was mighty, but his mind was bent.

“Let us Revolt” is what his name meant.

If the people were arrogant, then he crossed the line

To be one of the arrogant-est of all time.

He led a rebellion against the true God.

**NIMROD.** Who has more power than your king Nimrod?

**CITIZEN #5.** Why God up in heaven!

**CITIZEN #6.** Yahweh's his name!

**NIMROD.** Is heaven just His? Can't we have the same?

We'll be just as big, and have a great name.

Why should God get all the glory and fame?

**NARRATOR.** There surely were some who were timid but good.

**CITIZEN #5.** (*To CITIZEN #6:*) Nimrod must know what God did  
with the Flood.

---

**CITIZEN #6.** (*To CITIZEN #5:*) Our God is a just God—We shouldn't attack him.

**NARRATOR.** But other's were listening, so Nimrod kept yakin'.

**NIMROD.** One single ant by himself can do nil,  
But a colony of them can build quite a hill.  
If we work together, then we'll have great power.  
We'll build a great city. We'll build a great tower.

**NARRATOR.** Nimrod was persuasive...

**CITIZEN #1.** You've gotta admit,  
What he says makes sense, at least most of it.

**NIMROD.** By working together we'll get a great name.

**ALL CITIZENS.** Then we'll get the glory, and we'll get the fame.

**NIMROD.** A kingdom. A name. Just think what that's worth.

**ALL CITIZENS.** We wouldn't get scattered abroad on the Earth!

**NIMROD.** Why it might even make God jealous, admit it!  
When He sees what we've done, why He'll wish He did it.

**NARRATOR.** The people were sold on the plan, though they'd rue  
it,  
To build the great city and tower...

**ALL CITIZENS.** ...Let's do it!

**NIMROD.** Where are the builders, the best in the land?

**CITIZEN #2.** The ones who know how to make bricks out of sand?

**NIMROD.** Yes, those are the ones that I'm wanting...

**ALL BUILDERS.** ...Hey King!

**BUILDER #1.** We'll make you some bricks.

**BUILDER #2.** We've got a batch baking.

**BUILDER #3.** We bake the bricks longer than most think we should.

**BUILDER #1.** That makes 'em real hard.

**BUILDER #2.** Yeah, our bricks work good.

**BUILDER #3.** If you're building a tower you'll need quite a few.

**NIMROD.** ...Make me a zillion, and make 'em big too.

No! Make that a zillion times seven or more.

This tower will lead us right to heaven's door.

Won't God be surprised we can get there without him?

**ALL CITIZENS.** ...King Nimrod is mighty and no one should doubt him!

**NARRATOR.** With that, the whole kingdom of folks went to work.

They all had their jobs, which they wouldn't dare shirk.

Brick upon brick, and the tower did rise,

Higher and higher, right up toward the skies.

It rose even higher, its top in the clouds.

**CITIZEN #5 / #6.** ...How high does he want it, for cryin' out loud?

**NIMROD.** Silence you waifs! Don't give me your rant.

It must go as high as it can... 'til it can't!

This is the great mark of our earthly nation,

A grand monument to our determination.

**NARRATOR.** Now you may ask, "Just where was God in all this."

Could Nimrod and company all go unnoticed?

They built a great tower, and made it their idol,

And God doesn't like others taking his title.

No, God wasn't sleeping and he didn't miss it,

He saw Shinar's tower, and paid it a visit.

God beheld all that the people had done

And said...

**VOICE OF GOD.** All of these children still speak the same tongue.

This just begins what the people will do

If they all stay one nation, so here's what I'll do.

I will divide them and make them disperse,

Across all the lands that lie on the Earth.

The method I'll use will be strong like no other.

They simply will not understand one another.

**NARRATOR.** If God wanted work on the tower to stop,

What better way than adjust how they talk.  
Imagine just what this was like for the gang,  
Who toiled all day in the sun and the rain.

**LABORER #1.** Man! am I tired.

**LABORER #2.** I've got sun burned feet.

**LABORER #3.** There's sweat in my eyes.

**ALL LABORERS.** I see bricks in my sleep.

**LABORER #1.** Let's take a break from making these stacks.

**LUNCH CARRIER.** It's lunchtime you guys! Who wants some snacks?

**LABORER #1.** I'm famished!

**LABORER #2.** Me too!

**LABORER #3.** *(To the LUNCH CARRIER:)* Hey, you wouldn't by chance

Have some flibberty flabberty tick flicking flance.

**LUNCH CARRIER.** I'm not sure I caught that. Could you say that again?

**LABORER #3.** *(Confused that nobody understands:)* Flibberty flabberty flick ticking flen!

**LUNCH CARRIER.** *(To another WORKER:)* Wow, for a minute there I thought he said.

Turkey duck skunky monk zin zin za bed.

*(Nobody understands so he repeats more timidly.)*

**LUNCH CARRIER.** Zin zin za bed?

**LABORER #1.** Chang chow?

**LABORER #3.** Rat soom lame-o.

**LABORER #2.** Chick zonger glug glug tat rammel ting tame-o.

**NARRATOR.** Even King Nimrod was thusly affected.  
He couldn't give orders with speech misdirected.

## **THIS PLAY IS NOT OVER!**

In order to protect our associated authors against copyright infringement, we cannot currently present full electronic scripts.

To purchase books with the full text, and to apply for performance rights, click ORDER or go back to:

*[www.playscripts.com](http://www.playscripts.com)*