



Worship Illustration: Script
The Adventures of the Bonzai Brothers
God of Wonders Part 1: Miracles of Jesus
Unit 2, Lesson 6

Healing the Centurion's Servant

Matthew 8:5-10, 13

Running time: Approximately 6 minutes

Set: The Worship Illustration series for God of Wonders Units 1-4 is set in and around a remote jungle airstrip on an uncharted island north of Togo. It is the home of the Bonzai Brother's Flight School. The set should in some way denote the beginning of a journey; a dilapidated airplane hanger covered with vines and cargo netting. There is a cargo crate that contains the Bible. When it is opened, lights flash and a sound effect or theme song plays. For added interest, build windows, entrances and levels where the characters and puppets can pop up unexpectedly.

Characters: Chauncey is a former World War 1 British Air Force pilot turned missionary. He is one of the two Bonzai Brothers. Mumsy, a former nurse and commander in the Women's Air Brigade, is the Bonzai Brothers' mother. She is loving but very forceful and commands authority.

Plot: Mumsy arrives! She tells Chauncey how Jesus healed the centurion's servant. We learn Jesus has the authority of God to do miracles.

Costumes: Chauncey: Brown Bomber jacket, khaki pants, aviator cap and goggles, work boots, scarf; Mumsy: White wig, colorful blouse, culottes, furry boots, hat

Props: Bible, radio reception device

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro/outro music suggestion: "The Entertainer" by Scott Joplin

2. Plane engine sputter and crash
3. Explosion
4. Ambulance sirens
5. Crackling sound waves
6. Cargo Crate theme song suggestion: "There Can Be Miracles" from Disney's The Prince of Egypt soundtrack

Visual effects (VFX):

1. Video Intro: Black and white footage of experimental flight and failures in the Wright Brothers era (available at ResourceWell.org)
2. Ambulance lights
3. Fog
4. Cargo crate contains the Bible. Whenever it is opened, light shines out and theme song plays
5. Lightning flashes
6. Scripture slide: ***Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. Matthew 8:8***
6. Scripture slide: ***Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that very hour. Matthew 5:13***

7. Closing Slide: "It's incredible but true, what the God of Wonders can do!"

Adaptations:

1. Sound Effects: instead of using recorded effects, have children make the sounds
2. Voiceovers: may be spoken off stage
3. This illustration is also available in storybook form at ResourceWell.org

The Bonzai Brothers
Unit 2, Lesson 6
Healing the Centurion's Servant
Matthew 8:5-10, 13

(VFX: Bonzai Brothers Video intro)

Video Intro Voiceover

Since the dawn of time, man has longed to fly like the birds! (image of man with wings trying to fly) **Over in England, those amazing twin flyboys, the Bonzai Brothers, were making their first flight...and crashing** (image of a failed test flight) ... (image of another failed test flight), **and crashing ...and crashing** (image of another failed test flight)...**and, of course...crashing!** (image of another failed test flight) **Could it be possible that God would now use their "special talents," in the remotest places on Earth.** (animated plane flying over map) **Journey with us now to their island getaway to see what has become of the long lost Bonzai Brothers! And see the Wonders that God can do!** (SFX: "The Entertainer")

Chauncey (at hangar)

Hullo there, mates! Colonel Bonzai here! I just flew in from China and an hour later I feel like flying again! Today is the big day, our dear sweet Mumsy is supposed to arrive! Algie is back at the hut fixing up the guest bed. Oh, I just can't wait to see her! Ah, I think I hear her now. (SFX: Plane flying) **Yes, there she is! Hullo Mumsy!**

Mumsy (SFX: Sputters and dives to a crash)
Oh, dear! Look out below!

Chauncey

Duck and cover! (VFX: Ambulance lights, fog)

Mumsy (at hangar)

Jolly good! A perfect landing!

Chauncey

Mumsy! Mumsy! Are you, alright?

Mumsy

Of course, I am! Why wouldn't I be? In fifty years of flying, I have always had perfect landings.

Chauncey

Boys and girls, this is my Mumsy!

Mumsy (hugs him)

Hullo, children! Come here, my little Boo-boo Kitty! It's so good to see you! Let me look at you. You've gotten so big!

Chauncey

Mumsy, I am a grown-up!

Mumsy

Well, you'll always be my little Boo Boo Kitty. Oh...and where is my little, Monkey toes? (Hugs a child in the audience.) Monkey toes? Is that you? Let Mumsy give you a hug!

Chauncey

Mumsy! Mumsy! That is not Algernon!

Mumsy

It's not?

Chauncey

No, that's one of the kids. Algie is back at the hut making up your guest bed.

Mumsy (to child)

Terribly sorry. I just miss my little boys. Let me pinch your cheek!

Chauncey

Mumsy! Mumsy! You can't go around pinching strange children.

Mumsy (cross to stage)

Oh, he doesn't look strange to me.

Chauncey

You know what I mean!

Mumsy

Chauncey? Are you raising your voice to me?

Chauncey

No. I was simply being emphatic.

Mumsy

Do you know what happens when children raise their voices to their Mumsy?

Chauncey

No, Mumsy, I wasn't...!

Mumsy

Drop and give me five! Now!

Chauncey (does push-ups)

Yes, Mumsy!

Mumsy

And now it is Bible time.

Chauncey

Oh no, Mumsy, you know how I love Bible time, but we must...

Mumsy

Are you being disobedient?

Chauncey

No, it's just that...

Mumsy

Would you like to do five more?

Chauncey

No ma'am.

Mumsy

Then sit!

Chauncey

But...but...

Mumsy (hand gesture)

SIT! Good boy. Now then, I shall take out the Bible ri-right now! (sits) **That's lovely.** (SFX: "There Can Be Miracles," VFX: Light shines from Cargo Crate) **Now, in this story, Jesus and His disciples met a centurion who had a servant who was very, very sick, any questions?**

Chauncey (raises hand)

Mumsy, some of the kids might be wondering, what is a centurion?

Mumsy

Good question, Boo Boo Kitty. A centurion was a Roman officer in charge of 100 soldiers. Now I want someone to read what the centurion said to Jesus. Chauncey?

Chauncey

Mumsy, I'm not a little boy...

Mumsy (hand gesture)

READ! (VFX: Scripture slide of Matthew 8:8)

Chauncey (stand and read)

He said, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed." (sits)

Mumsy

Good reading, Chauncey.

Chauncey

Well, I am a grown-up.

Mumsy

Of course you are, dear.

Chauncey

I am. Oh but, Mumsy, I do have a question. Why did the centurion tell Jesus *not* to come to his house?

Mumsy (stand and pace)

Excellent question, Boo Boo Kitty! You see, when the centurion wanted his soldiers to do something, all he had to do was give an order and it was done!

Chauncey

Sort of like you.

Mumsy

I suppose so. When I was commanding the Women's Air Brigade, I had authority! Do you know what authority means, Boo Boo Kitty?

Chauncey

Of course Mumsy. I am a grown-up.

Mumsy

Of course you are, dear. Why don't you share with us what the word authority means?

Chauncey

Mumsy, I don't want to...

Mumsy

Stand up. Share it with us now.

Chauncey

I feel silly...

Mumsy (hand gesture)

SHARE!

Chauncey (stand)

Authority means in charge. (sits)

Mumsy

Good boy! As their authority, all I had to do was say the word and my ladies snapped to attention and obeyed my commands.

Chauncey

But Jesus wasn't in the army.

Mumsy

That is true but Jesus had the authority of God and God is more powerful than any man's army!

Chauncey

Well what did Jesus say?

Mumsy (VFX: Scripture slide of Matthew 5:13)

Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that very hour.

Chauncey

Wowsers, Mumsy! Jesus healed the man simply with His words!

Mumsy

That's because Jesus is the God of Wonders! Jesus has God's authority – so He performs impossible, incredible miracles!

Chauncey (jumps up)

Miracles!

Mumsy

Miracles!

Chauncey

Miracles! Do you know what we like to say, Mumsy?

Mumsy

What's that, Boo-boo Kitty?

Chauncey

Let's say it kids: "It's incredible but true, what the God of Wonders can do!" (SFX: "The Entertainer")

Mumsy (VFX: Slide)

Oh, I do like that! Good show! Well, ta-ta kiddies! Be sure to obey your Mums and Dads! Love and kippers!

(exit)