



Worship Illustration: Script
The Adventures of the Bonzai Brothers
God of Wonders Part 1: Miracles of Jesus
Unit 2, Lesson 7

Healing the Paralyzed Man

Mark 2:1-5, 10-12

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: The main characters, Chauncey and Algernon Bonzai are former World War 1 British Air Force pilots turned missionaries. Pepper is a bird puppet (pelican or parrot). 800 Pound Gorilla is a fur-covered arm and hand that only speaks in gibberish.

Plot: Mumsy removes a splinter from 800 Pound Gorilla's hand and heals him. She tells the story of the paralyzed man and his friends. We learn we should never give up because Jesus has the power to heal our bodies and our souls.

Costumes: Mumsy: White wig, colorful blouse, culottes, furry boots, hat; 800 Pound Gorilla: Fur covering for arm

Props: Bible, radio reception device, knitting needles

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro music suggestion: "The Entertainer" by Scott Joplin
6. Cargo Crate theme song suggestion: "There Can Be Miracles" from Disney's The Prince of Egypt soundtrack
7. Outro music suggestion: "The Entertainer" by Scott Joplin

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. Cargo crate contains the Bible. Whenever it is opened, light shines out and theme song plays
3. Scripture slide: **Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on.**
Mark 2:4
4. 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

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(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")

Mumsy (enters through house)
Hullo, hullo, how are you, children? I said, HOW ARE YOU, CHILDREN?
(Children respond.) **That's better. It's me, Mumsy. I was just out for my daily walk and enjoying the lovely island beauty.**

Pepper
Algie! Algie! Algie! Algie! Algie!

Mumsy
Oh my, you startled me. I'm not Algie, dear.

Pepper
Oh, I can never tell you two apart. Chauncey! Chauncey! Chauncey! Chauncey! Chauncey! Chauncey!

Mumsy
I'm not Chauncey either, dear.

Pepper
Then who are you and what did you do with the Bonzais?

Mumsy
I am a Bonzai, Mumsy Bonzai! I'm their mother.

Pepper
I can see the resemblance.

Mumsy
And who are you, dear?

Pepper
Pepper Pelican, messenger extraordinaire! I was really hoping to talk to the Bonzais. I need their help. My friend has a boo-boo and he needs medical attention, STAT!

Mumsy
Well, this is your lucky day. It just so happens that I was a nurse in the Army Air Corp.

Pepper
You were in the Air Corp? Cool!

Mumsy
Well, don't dawdle, call your friend.

Pepper
Yes Ma'am! Oh, 800 Pound Gorilla!

Mumsy
You have a friend named 800 Pound Gorilla?

Pepper
Yup, he's right behind you!

Mumsy
Oh my! He is an 800 pound gorilla!

Pepper
We don't call him that for nothing!

Mumsy
Are you sassing me? Mumsy doesn't like a sassy mouth. Are you a sassy mouth?

Pepper
No ma'am.

Mumsy
I can't hear you!

Pepper
NO MA'AM!

Mumsy
That's better. Now what seems to be the problem with 800 Pound Gorilla?

800 Pound Gorilla
Bluh-bluh-bluh-bluh-bluh!

Pepper
He says he's got a splinter.

Mumsy
Is that all? Well, put out your hand.

800 Pound Gorilla (pulls hand back)
Bluh-bluh!

Pepper
He's a little scared.

Mumsy
Nonsense, it's only a splinter. Put your hand out...NOW!

800 Pound Gorilla (puts out hand)
Bluh-bluh!

Mumsy (pulls out a knitting needle)
Let me get a needle.

800 Pound Gorilla (pulls hand back)
Bluh-bluh-bluh-bluh-bluh!

Pepper
Woah! That's not a needle, that's a harpoon! Come on, give her your hand.

800 Pound Gorilla (puts hand back)
Bluh-bluh-bluh-bluh-bluh!

Mumsy
Oh, don't be such babies. I'll have it out in two shakes of a lamb's tail. There, you are!
Done!

800 Pound Gorilla (sadly)
Bluh-bluh-bluh-bluh-bluh!

Mumsy
What did he say?

Pepper
He said it stings.

Mumsy
Oh, come here. Let Mumsy kiss the boo-boo. There. Does that feel better?

800 Pound Gorilla (happily)
Bluh-bluh!

Mumsy
Good, on your way now. And stay out of splintery trees.

Pepper
Wow! Mumsy kisses can heal anything.

Mumsy
Actually, Mumsy kisses do make things feel better but it is Jesus who heals everything. But, you did do a very noble thing bringing your friend to me. It reminds me of the men who brought their friend to Jesus.

Pepper
Did that really happen?

Mumsy
Absolutely, it's right here in the Bible. (Opens crate, SFX: "There Can Be Miracles," VFX: Light shines from Cargo Crate) **There were four men who brought their paralyzed friend to see Jesus.**

Pepper
What does paralyzed mean?

Mumsy
It means he couldn't walk or use his feet or legs. When they got to the house where Jesus was preaching there was such a big crowd that they couldn't get in the door.

Pepper

Aw, too bad. Did they go home?

Mumsy

Oh no, they wouldn't give up that easily. They had faith that Jesus could heal their friend.

Pepper

So what did they do?

Mumsy (VFX: Scripture slide)

The Bible says: "Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on."

Pepper

What did Jesus do?

Mumsy

When he saw the great faith of the four friends, Jesus told the man that his sins were forgiven.

Pepper

But I thought they took him to Jesus for healing?

Mumsy

Well that was healing for the man's soul. Next Jesus healed the man's body. Jesus told him, "Get up, take your mat and go home." And that's exactly what the man did.

Pepper

Boy, that man sure had four great friends. They did everything they could to bring their friend to Jesus. They never gave up!

Mumsy (to children)

Yes, and you need to know that if you have friends with boo-boos or friends who don't have Jesus in their hearts you should never give up! You can always bring your friends and families to Jesus because Jesus has the power to heal their bodies and their souls!

Pepper

That's incredible!

Mumsy

Do you know what else is incredible?

Pepper

I do! I do! "It's incredible but true, what the God of Wonders can do!"

Mumsy (VFX: Closing slide)

That's what my boys love to say! Let's all say it together! "It's incredible but true, what the God of Wonders can do!" (SFX: "The Entertainer")

Pepper

So long, kids. I'm going to find more friends with boo-boos! (exit)

Mumsy

Ta-ta! Love and kippers! (exit)