



Worship Illustration: Script
The Adventures of the Bonzai Brothers
God of Wonders Part 1: Miracles of Jesus
Unit 2, Lesson 9

Healing the Deaf and Mute Man

Mark 7:32-37

Running time: Approximately 7 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: Mumsy, a former nurse and commander in the Women's Air Brigade, is the Bonzai's mother. She is loving but very tough and commands authority. Pepper is a bird puppet (pelican or parrot). 800 Pound Gorilla is a fur-covered arm and hand that only speaks in gibberish.

Plot: Pepper crashes his plane and the explosion affects his hearing. Mumsy reads about how Jesus healed a deaf man and Pepper gets healed. We learn Jesus ultimately wants to heal our hearts.

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

Props: Rubber chicken, Bible

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro music suggestion: "The Entertainer" by Scott Joplin
2. Plane engine sputter and crash
3. Explosion
4. Ambulance sirens
5. 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. Ambulance lights
3. Fog
4. Cargo Crate contains the Bible. Whenever it is opened, light shines out and theme song plays
5. Scripture slide: ***At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. Mark 7:35***
6. 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

Hello children! Ta-da! I'm healed! It was the most amazing thing. I was feeling awful and then Pepper and 800 Pound Gorilla and my own little Monkey Toes and Boo Boo Kitty began to pray for me and God gave me a "right away" healing! It was a miracle! In honor of my healing, Pepper and 800 Pound Gorilla are going to fly my plane overhead and write "We Love Mumsy" in the sky.

Pepper (offstage)

Are you ready, 800 Pound Gorilla?

Gorilla (offstage)

Bluh-bluh-bluh-bluh!

Pepper (offstage)

Roger Wilco! Let's start our engines! (SFX: Plane engine starting and running)

Mumsy

Oh, this is going to be just lovely! Look at them go! 800 Pound Gorilla is flying so high and so straight... straight for us! Look out, Pepper, you're going to...crash.

Pepper (SFX: Plane engine sputter and crash)
Look out below!

Mumsy

Duck and cover! (SFX: Ambulance sirens, VFX: Ambulance lights and fog) (Rubber chicken flies out of window) **Pepper! Oh, my! Dear sweet, Pepper! What has become of you? Oh, say it isn't so! My fine feathered friend, I've lost you! Oh, I'll miss you so. If only I could hear your sweet, squawky voice once more.**

Pepper (enters coughing)

Oh, man! That was not fun!

Mumsy

I can hear him. It's almost as though he was still with us.

Pepper

Did anyone get the number of that bus that hit me?!

Mumsy

Pepper! It's you!

Pepper

Where am I?

Mumsy

You're safe in Mumsy's arms.

Pepper

What happened and why are you hugging a rubber chicken?

Mumsy

Oh, there you are, Pepper!

Pepper

What?

Mumsy

I said, oh, there you are, Pepper! Are you okay?

Pepper

What?!

Mumsy

I said, are you okay?!

Pepper

WHAT!! Speak up? Why are you whispering?

Mumsy

I'm not whispering, I'm shouting! Oh dear, Pepper, you've lost your hearing.

Pepper

What?

Mumsy

I say, you've lost your hearing.

Pepper

I tossed my key ring?

Mumsy

Not your key ring, your hearing!

Pepper

What? I can't hear you. I think I've lost my hearing.

Mumsy

You are, Pepper! This reminds me of a story.

Pepper

Who's Laurie?

Mumsy

I said story! Story!

Pepper

Ooooh, Cory!

Mumsy

Never mind. Let me just get the Bible.

(SFX: "There Can Be Miracles," VFX: Light shines from Cargo Crate) **This story is in the book of Mark.**

Pepper

Yeah, it is gettin' a little dark.

Mumsy

Mark! Mark!

Pepper

Well, muck-muck to you, too!

Mumsy

I'll just tell the kids.

Pepper

Don't sell the kids! We need them!

Mumsy

PEPPER!!

Pepper

Yes, ma'am?

Mumsy

Hold your tongue!

Pepper

I don't have any hands...

Mumsy

NOT another WORD!

Pepper

Yes, ma'am.

Mumsy

Now, in this story there is a man who cannot hear or speak! Sound familiar?

Pepper

Mm-hmm.

Mumsy

The crowd begged Jesus to touch him and heal him. So he took the man aside and put His fingers in the man's ears. Then He spit and touched the man's tongue.

Pepper
Eww! Yuck!

Mumsy
It *was* kind of an unusual thing to do. But then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Ephphatha!" (which in the Greek language means, "Be opened!") (VFX: Scripture Slide) *At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. Mark 7:35*

Pepper
Hey, what did you just say?

Mumsy
"Ephphatha?"

Pepper
In English, please?

Mumsy
"Be opened!"

Pepper
Well, it worked! I can hear perfectly! I'm healed!

Mumsy
Oh, it's a miracle!

Pepper
A miracle?

Mumsy
A miracle! And it's a miracle that can lead to many more miracles!

Pepper
It is?

Mumsy
Of course! When our ears are open to the things of God, we can hear that Jesus loves us. With our mouths, we tell Him we want to belong to Him. And that's when He heals our hearts.

Pepper
That's incredible! I can't wait to tell Monkey Toes and Boo Boo Kitty!

Mumsy
You know what they're going to say, don't you?

Pepper (SFX: Closing slide)
I sure do! Let's all say it together, kids: "It's incredible but true, what the God of Wonders can do!"

Mumsy
Good show, Pepper! Ta-ta kiddies! Love and kippers!

(exits)