



Worship Illustration: Script
The Adventures of the Bonzai Brothers
God of Wonders Part 1: Miracles of Jesus
Unit 3, Lesson 12

Raising Lazarus

John 11:3-44

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 Brothers' mother. She is loving but very tough and commands authority. Popsy is the Bonzai Brothers' father. He is brave, brash and very Scottish.

Plot: Mumsy and Popsy prove Jesus had compassion as well as power by telling us how He raised Lazarus from the dead. We learn the Lord Jesus gives us life forever.

Costumes Mumsy: White wig, colorful blouse, culottes, furry boots, hat; Popsy: Kilt, tam, mustache, boots

Props: Bible

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro music suggestion: "The Entertainer" by Scott Joplin
2. Bagpipe music
3. Cargo Crate theme song suggestion: "There Can Be Miracles" from Disney's The Prince of Egypt soundtrack
4. 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: ***I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this? John 11:25-26***
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

The Bonzai Brothers
Unit 3, Lesson 12
Raising Lazarus
John 11:3-44

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 at hangar)
Hullo there, children! Mumsy here! I am so excited to have my dear, sweet Popsy here with us! We’ve got the whole family together for the first time in years! (SFX: Bagpipe music) **Uh-oh, I think I hear him coming now!**

Popsy (crosses through audience) **Where is she? Where is me wee, beautiful bride?**

Mumsy
Over here, Angus!

Popsy
Ah, there you are, you sweet thing! Let me give you a great, big bear hug! (lifts Mumsy up with a hug)

Algie
No more hugs for you! Last night you squeezed me so hard that my boots popped off!

Popsy
Aye, that was my “Anaconda Squeeze!”

Mumsy
Well, I am not an anaconda, I am your wife!

Popsy
Ah, Mabel, I can’t help it. I missed you so.

Mumsy (linking arms)
It is lovely to be back together again as a family.

Popsy
Aye, family is important.

Mumsy
Yes, and I’m so proud of little Boo Boo Kitty and Monkey Toes.

Popsy
Who?!

Mumsy
Chauncey and Algernon!

Popsy
Oh, I thought you were talkin’ about that 800 Pound Gorilla.

Mumsy
No, I meant our sons. They’ve grown up to be powerful men of God.

Popsy
Well, that Algie is a bit of a skinny thing. Every time I wrestle him I’m afraid I’m gonna snap him in half like a twig!
Mumsy
Popsy! I’m not talking about their size. I’m talking about their character. Both of our sons are serving the Lord Jesus with all of their hearts, souls and minds!

Popsy
Aye, Mumsy, that’s ‘cuz we raised ‘em right! Taught ‘em to be godly men, like Jesus!

Mumsy
That’s true. You know, children, as you grow, it’s important to learn to love others like Jesus loves them.

Popsy

Aye! And it's also important to respect His power! Jesus is the Lord over all things! Even death! Like that time gave old, Lazarus a wake up call! Remember that one?

Mumsey

Yes, that's a wonderful story! Why don't we read it to the kids?

Popsy

Let's get the Bible out right now!

(SFX: "There Can Be Miracles," VFX: Light shines from Cargo Crate) I love that! I do believe in miracles!

Mumsey

I've got a miracle right here! It's in the book of John.

Popsy

Aye, that's when Jesus' poor friend Lazarus passed away.

Mumsey

He did what?

Popsy

He passed away...he kacked the booket...he died!

Mumsey

Oh! He passed away! Yes, I remember now, Lazarus had been quite ill. In fact his sisters, Mary and Martha had sent a message asking Jesus to come right away! But when Jesus heard about it, He said a very curious thing. He said to His disciples, "This sickness would not end in death."

Popsy

Aye! He said it was for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified!

Mumsey

What do you suppose Jesus meant by that?

Popsy

Well, glorify Jesus means to honor Jesus with praise, so I think He's gonna do a miracle!

Mumsey

A miracle!

Popsy

A miracle! Now when Jesus arrived, Lazarus had already passed away, and his poor little sisters were crying their little eyes out. When Jesus met up with Martha, He told her, "Your brother's gonna rise up again!"

Mumsey

Yes and Martha said, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

Popsy

What did Martha mean by that?

Mumsey

She believed what the Scriptures promised – that those who believe in the Lord will go to Heaven!

Popsy (VFX: Scripture slide)

Aye, but Jesus did an amazing thing. Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Mumsey

I do! I believe it, Popsy!

Popsy

That's because it's true, Mumsey! Jesus has "Resurrection Power!"

Mumsey

Resurrection is an awfully big word, Popsy.

Popsy

**Aye, well we serve an awfully big Lord!
But resurrection simply means to bring
back to life. It is being raised from the
dead.**

Mumsey

**Popsy, are you telling us that Jesus has
the power to bring dead people back to
life?**

Popsy (to children)

**Well kids, who created life in the first
place? (response) Aye, that's right, God!
And who gave Jesus all power to rule over
Heaven and earth? (response) Aye, God!**

Mumsey

**So, it makes sense that Jesus has all
power over life and death!**

Popsy

**Aye, and I can prove it straight from the
word of God! Look what happens next!
There was a giant stone in front of the
cave where Lazarus was buried. Jesus told
them to take away the stone.**

Mumsey

**So they moved the stone and then Jesus
thanked the Father for hearing Him.**

Popsy

**Then Jesus called out in a loud voice,
"Lazarus, come out!" And Lazarus obeyed
Lord Jesus and came right out of that
cave- he was alive! It was a miracle!**

Mumsey

A miracle!

Popsy

A miracle!

Mumsey

A miracle! I believe it, Popsy!

Popsy

**Well, you know what Jesus said, "Did I not
tell you that if you believed, you would see
the glory of God!"**

Mumsey

**Well, I see His glory and His Resurrection
Power! It's just incredible!**

Popsy (VFX: Closing slide)

**Aye! And you lads and lassies know what
else is incredible, don't ya? Let's all say it
together: "It's incredible but true, what
the God of Wonders can do!"**

Mumsey

**Good show, Popsy! Ta-ta kiddies!
Come back next time. (SFX: The Entertainer)**

Popsy and Mumsey

Love and kippers!!

(exit)