Worship Illustration: Script
The Adventures of the Bonzai Brothers
God of Wonders Part 1: Miracles of Jesus
Unit 3, Lesson 13

13

Riding Into Jerusalem

Luke 19:28-42

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: Algie (Algernon) is a former World War1 British Air Force pilot turned missionary. He is one of the two Bonzai Brothers. Popsy is the Bonzai Brothers' father. He is brave, brash and very Scottish. 800 Pound Gorilla is a fur-covered arm and hand that only speaks in gibberish.

Plot: Chauncey tells Popsy how the owners gave their donkey's colt to the Lord Jesus because He needed it. We learn we can trust the Lord and give Him whatever He asks of us.

Costumes: Algeron: Brown Bomber jacket, khaki pants, aviator cap and goggles, work boots, scarf; Popsy: Kilt, tam, mustache, boots

Props: Bible

Sound effects (SFX):
1. Intro music suggestion: "The Entertainer" by Scott Joplin
2. Cargo Crate theme song suggestion: "There Can Be Miracles" from Disney's The Prince of Egypt soundtrack
3. 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**: *They replied, "The Lord needs it. Luke 19:34***
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
The Bonzai Brothers
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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")

Popsy (enters at hangar)
Hullo there, children! Popsy here! I was lookin' for that 800 Pound Gorilla. You haven't seen him have ya? (Gorilla arm puppet pops up) **What's that? He's behind me? Where? Oh, there you are! Where have you been?**

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

Popsy
What's that? You were hidin'! Why were you hidin' from me?

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

Popsy
What's that?! You're afraid to arm wrassle with me? You're a great, big 800 pound gorilla and you're scared of a little fella like me!

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

Popsy
Oh, it's because I twisted your arm and beat you the last three times! Don't be a baby. I'll tell ya what, I'll give ye another chance. This time the loser has to give the winner a piggyback ride. Fair enough?

800 Pound Gorilla
Bluh-bluh!

Popsy
All right! Are ya ready? 1-2-3!
(They arm wrestle; Popsy wins.) **Aha! Got ya agin!**

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

Popsy
Hey! Get back here 800 Pound Gorilla?

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

Popsy
Aye, you'd better run! You owe me a piggyback ride. Ah, that crazy monkey? What does a fella have to do to get a piggyback ride?

Algie
Hello kids. Hello Popsy! I say, I just saw 800 Pound Gorilla speeding through the jungle like Lightning McQueen! Where do you suppose he was running in such a hurry?

Popsy
Far, far awee from me.

Algie
Away from you? But why?

Popsy
I was tryin' to ride on his back.

Algie
Why would you want to ride on the back of a gorilla?

Popsy
Well, as you know, we're celebrating the day that the Lord Jesus rode into Jerusalem! I thought it would be a great idea to act out the Bible story for the kids.

Algie
But Popsy, there is no 800 pound gorilla in the Bible.

Popsy
Oh, yes there is! I'll show you. Let me get the Bible out right now! (SFX: "There Can Be Miracles," VFX: Light shines from Cargo Crate) Here it is! It was the day that Jesus came back to Jerusalem and He was riding on a monkey!

Algie
Popsy, Jesus didn't ride on a monkey! Kids, what did Jesus ride? (response) Exactly, Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on a donkey!

Popsy
Are you sure?

Algie
Of course, I'm sure! It was a colt.

Popsy
You mean a young baby donkey?

Algie
Yes, Jesus told His followers that in the village ahead they would find a colt that had never been ridden and that they should untie it and bring it to Him.

Popsy
Wow! Jesus knew the colt would be there?

Algie
He did.

Popsy
And was it there?

Algie
It was!

Popsy
That's a miracle!

Algie
A miracle!

Popsy
A miracle! Wait a tick! Didn't that donkey belong to someone?

Algie
It did.

Popsy
What?! Don't tell me they stole it! That's "Grand Theft Donkey!"

Algie
They didn't steal it. Jesus told them that if anyone asks, "Why are you untying it?" tell him, "The Lord needs it."

Popsy
Well, what did the owners say?

Algie
They said, "Why are you untying the colt?"

Popsy
I knew it! And what did the followers say?

Algie (VFX: Scripture slide)
The Bible says: *They replied, "The Lord needs it."*

Popsy
Then what did the owners do?

Algie
They gave it to them.

Popsy
Aha! I knew it! I knew they'd never get away...wait! Algie? Did you say they gave it to them?

Algie
Of course, those owners wanted to give the Lord whatever He asked of them.

Popsy
Oh, I get what you're saying! Kids, what the Bible is telling us is that Jesus wants us all to go out and buy a donkey and give it to Him. So Jesus can have a billion donkeys!

Algie
Popsy, that's not what the Bible is saying.

Popsy
It's not?

Algie
No, the Lord just wants us to *serve* Him with whatever we have.

Popsy
Ahh! Now I see! It's about serving! Kids, Jesus wants us all to get a job on a farm so we can serve donkey food to donkeys!

Algie
No, Popsy! It's not about the donkeys at all! It's about serving the Lord with whatever you have. When He is the Lord of your life, you trust Him enough to give Him whatever He ask of you - just like the owners of the donkey did.

Popsy
So, you're saying if the Lord asks me to give away my aeroplane because He needs it – then I can trust Him and give up my aeroplane to serve my Lord.

Algie
That's right, and?

Popsy
The Bible says the Lord asks us to give our offerings, so I can trust Him with my money offerings?

Algie
That's right, and?

Popsy
I can trust the Lord and give to Him whatever He asks of me- no matter what it is!

Algie
That's right! And when we do that, we can trust that whatever we give Him, He'll surely use it to build His kingdom in incredible ways! After all... (VFX: Closing Slide) **Let's say it together kids! "It's incredible but true, what the God of Wonders can do!"**

Popsy
So long, kids! Keep serving Jesus! (SFX: "The Entertainer")

(they exit)