



Worship Illustration: Script
The Adventures of the Bonzai Brothers
God of Wonders Part 1: Miracles of Jesus
Unit 4, Lesson 17

Saving the Official's Son

John 4:46-54

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 is a former World War 1 British Air Force pilot turned missionary. He is one of the two Bonzai Brothers. Pepper is a bird puppet (pelican or parrot).

Plot: Pepper tells Algie how the Bonzais rescued him. Algie tells the story of how Jesus rescued a young boy. We learn Jesus always keeps His word.

Costumes: Brown Bomber jacket, khaki pants, aviator cap and goggles, work boots, scarf

Props: Binoculars, Bible, vegetable necklace, rubber chicken

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro music suggestion: "The Entertainer" by Scott Joplin
2. Plane plummeting and crash
3. Chicken squawk
4. Cargo Crate theme song suggestion: "There Can Be Miracles" from Disney's The Prince of Egypt soundtrack
5. 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: ***Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So, he and all his household believed.***
John 4:53
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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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")

Algie (enters with binoculars)
Hullo there, mates! Colonel Bonzai here! We've been waiting anxiously for Popsy to make it back on his long swim from Easter Island. We Bonzais have made a life-long promise to rescue each other from danger. So, I sent Mumsy to one end of the island and Pepper to the other to see if they could spot him.

Pepper
Wahhhhhhh!

Algie
Why, that sounds like Pepper now.

Pepper
Look out below! (SFX: Plane plummeting to a crash, chicken squawk) (toss rubber chicken)

Algie
Pepper! Are you all right? Speak to me!

Pepper (pops up)
I'm over here and why do all you Bonzais hug rubber chickens?

Algie (tosses rubber chicken)
Sorry, I thought it was you! Are you all right!

Pepper
I am now! But, I was just saved from a fate worse than death!

Algie
What happened? And where did you get that vegetable necklace?

Pepper
That's part of the story! I was on my way to the beach to look for Popsy when I was captured by eight gigantic bad guys!

Algie
Bad guys? On our island?!

Pepper
Yes, I think they crashed their boat running from the law!

Algie
Well, where are they now?

Pepper
I'll get to that. I was flying over when I noticed a fire. I thought it was Popsy signaling for a rescue, so I flew down to get a closer look. And they caught me in a net!

Algie
No!

Pepper
Yes!
Algie
No!

Pepper
Yes!

Algie
No!

Pepper

I said YES! They wanted to eat me! I'm quite tasty, you know. They seasoned me up, covered me with veggies and put this big pot of boiling water on the fire. I was just seconds away from being Pelican stew!

Algie

Well, how did you escape?

Pepper

That's the good part. I started to pray. And I heard this voice say, "Unhand that Pelican, you filthy scallywags!" It was...

Both

Popsy to the rescue!

Pepper

That's right! He jumped on mob of pirates, wrassled them to the ground and tickled their bellies!

Algie

All eight pirates?! That's my Popsy!

Pepper

He was getting the best of them too until one of them picked up a log and hit Popsy over the head!

Algie

No!

Pepper

Yes! Fortunately you Bonzais have very thick skulls! Anyway, they overpowered him and were about to tie him up when I heard this high pitched voice shout, "Bonzais to the rescue!"

Algie

Mumsy to the rescue!

Pepper

You got it! Mumsy came flying in out of nowhere and started kung foo-ing everyone in sight!

Algie

That's our Mumsy!

Pepper

And then four of them pulled out their swords! They were about to turn her into Swiss cheese when I heard this piercing jungle cry like this: "Ah-ah-ah-ah!" and 800 Pound Gorilla dropped out of the trees and bopped them on the head! Just then Chauncey crashed into them, took their swords, and radioed the coast guard who came and locked them up! Your family rescued me from the jaws of death!

Algie

You know, we Bonzais have made a life-long promise to rescue each other from danger!

Pepper

You sure kept your word this time!

Algie

That reminds me of Jesus. He rescued a boy from death, you know.

Pepper

No!

Algie

Yes!

Pepper

No!

Algie

I said YES!

Pepper

Well, I love adventure stories! Read it to me, Big Fella!

Algie

Certainly, I'll get my Bible out! (SFX: "There Can Be Miracles," VFX: Light shines from Cargo Crate) Here it is, one time when Jesus was in Cana there was this royal official who had a son who was very sick in the town of Capernaum. He went to Jesus and begged Him to come heal his son, who was close to death. The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies."

Pepper

Oh no! What did Jesus do?

Algie

Jesus replied, "You may go. Your son will live."

Pepper

Well, what did the official do?

Algie

The Bible says, He took Jesus at His word and left.

Pepper

He just left?! Just like that?!

Algie

Just like that. And on his way home his servants came running up to tell him his son was alive. The boy was healed! It was a miracle!

Pepper

A miracle!

Algie

A miracle! But, that's not the best part!

Pepper

There's more!

Algie (VFX: Scripture slide)

There's more! The father asked what time his son had been healed. They told him and the Bible says, "'Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, 'Your son will live.' So, he and all his household believed!'"

Pepper

Wow! So, Jesus was a rescuer and a man of his word!

Algie

Where do you think we Bonzais learned to be so trustworthy? Jesus only had to speak a word and it was done! We can always count on Jesus to keep his promise!

Pepper

And when the man's family saw this miracle they all believed in Jesus too! That's incredible!

Algie

Oh, Pepper you said one of the Bonzais' favorite words! (VFX: Closing Slide)

Pepper

I know! Let's all say it together, kids: "It's incredible but true, what the God of Wonders can do!"

Algie

So long kids! We're going to go get the jeep and pick up the conquering heroes? (SFX: "The Entertainer") Tally ho!

(they exit)