

SHORT CHANGED

A musical holiday club for children aged 7 - 12



Youth and
Children's
Ministries



Music and
Creative Arts



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All other materials and resources can be found on the attached DVD.



INTRO TO SHORT CHANGED

Welcome to **SHORT CHANGED** - a holiday club and musical designed for children aged 7 - 12. This resource brings together elements of craft, singing, acting, games and Bible teaching to help children explore the story of Zacchaeus in a new and exciting way.

In this pack you will find all of the resources you need:

For the musical:

Lyric and lead sheets, backing tracks, demonstration tracks, lyric videos, 'armography' videos and a full script.

For the holiday club:

Activities with printable templates, instructions for games, readings and reflection times, as well as Safe and Sound paperwork and materials for a follow-up family service.

An experienced children's work team may choose to use parts of this resource to suit their particular programme, however **SHORT CHANGED** has been designed so that everything is laid out for you to run a successful week-long club.

SHORT CHANGED has been designed to be used as an outreach resource - so it is important to remember that when leading reflections and bible teaching you are working with children who may have never been to church before. Consider how you use religious language and ensure that children are not expected to participate in activities that they don't understand. Instead, be ready to explain how and why we do these things and be confident in sharing your faith!

AUDITIONS

With any show it is important to cast capable performers in lead roles. It may be tempting to cast children you already know well, but try to give opportunities to all children to demonstrate their ability.

One non-threatening way to audition children is to make it a fun part of the first day. When registering children ask them each to say the 'password' for the day - this password could be a short line from the script displayed on a wall or piece of paper. From the way that children read the line (expressively, confidently, quietly, clearly) you will learn a lot about their willingness and ability to speak in front of people.

Alternatively you could ask each child to tell you a joke as they register. Have a few simple jokes printed out for those who can't think of one for themselves. Again, the way that they tell you their joke will demonstrate their willingness and ability to perform.



SINGING

Teaching the songs in **SHORT CHANGED** shouldn't be a slow and laborious process. Once children have signed up for your holiday club make sure that they can access the songs in advance - all of the demonstration recordings for **SHORT CHANGED** can be found on YouTube - search 'Salvation Army, Short Changed' - make sure you share these links on the appropriate social media pages etc.

It is probably best to teach the songs by rote - you sing a line and they sing it back. It may not be the most sophisticated method of learning songs and won't create independent musicians, but it will mean that the songs are learnt quickly and to a decent standard. The key factor to performing songs in this style is attitude! Make sure you convey the enthusiasm and energy that you want to see from the children in their performance. Remember the purpose of the songs is to be fun and engaging for the children.

You may choose for the whole cast to sing all of the songs, or take opportunities to use soloists at various points. Start by learning songs together and use this as an opportunity to identify your strongest singers. Ideally it would be good to have your Zacchaeus sing the verses of *Our Money* as solos but this is not essential. Equally it would be effective for Jesus to sing the quiet chorus of *Seek and Save* as a solo, but this doesn't have to be the case.

ARMOGRAPHY

Some 'armography' videos have been included as part of the **SHORT CHANGED** resource. These simple actions can be learnt straight from the videos if this helps, or you could learn them and teach them alongside the songs. They will help to keep the songs fun and engaging, as well as remind children of the lyrics. Again the key to this aspect of the performance is energy - as the leader you and your team need to participate fully if you expect the children to.

DRAMA

The action of **SHORT CHANGED** takes place on the streets of Jericho, with Samuel and Jacob as the narrators. Along with these parts Zacchaeus is also a significant speaking part. Other speaking parts, such as Jesus, villagers and Miriam, have fewer lines but give you an opportunity to have more children actively involved in the drama side of the show.

Other cast members are used as additional villagers and should to react to what's happening in the scenes.





SHORT CHANGED is a Salvation Army resource, created and published in the United Kingdom and Ireland Territory.

Created and designed by the Music and Creative Arts and Youth and Children's Ministries teams, 2020.

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