

# AN ACT OF WORSHIP



Music and  
Creative Arts



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# INTRODUCTION

The Salvation Army believes drama can be much more than a means of entertainment and performance. It is a way of expressing faith, enhancing a theme or sermon in a meeting and a way of reaching out to non-Christians using a common medium. For many, drama has become synonymous with worship.

**An ACT of Worship** is just that: a book containing scripts that can be used within corps to enhance worship through drama.

This second volume of An ACT of Worship contains more scripts that can be used within the corps to enhance worship through drama. The scripts cover various themes and are accessible to all, regardless of age, ability and size of group; there should be something for everyone.

Drama is unique in its style and presentation; subjectivity is present in its very writing. A certain degree of liberty may be taken within the pieces which would enhance the performance, whether to emphasise a point or to entertain. Therefore, please approach these scripts in the manner in which they are written – not as Shakespearean plays or literal translations of the Bible, but rather as acts designed to encourage and enhance worship.

An ACT of Worship Volume 1, An ACT of Christmas and An ACT of Easter are all available in PDF format on the Music and Creative Arts resources web page.

All scripts have been kindly gifted and we are extremely grateful to those who have given their time and talents back to God in this way. It is wonderful that one person's vision and creativity can be used by so many people in so many ways, with the common aim of bringing people closer to God.

Stephanie Lamplough  
*Assistant Director of Music and Creative Arts  
(Creative Arts)*

If you have any scripts or monologues that you would like to be included in future publications of **An ACT of Worship** please send them to [music@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:music@salvationarmy.org.uk) for consideration.



It is with this in mind that we share with you the Bible verse 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV):

***'Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.'***

# SAMMY THE SALMON

The monologue tells of the journey of Sammy the Salmon who is trying to swim back 'home'. To make the way back to where he feels he belongs, he needs to swim against the tide, face storms and ferocious beasts, and finds himself guiding other salmon on the same journey.

The salmon's journey is a metaphor for the Christian journey. Those who want to embrace whole-life discipleship will feel as though they too are swimming against the tide, face storms, have their own ferocious beasts to conquer, and will indeed influence and guide others on the same journey.

**Theme:** The Christian journey

**Cast:** Salmon (an American salmon) and two prop holders (optional)

**Props:** This can be done purely as a monologue. However, cardboard cut-outs of sticks of dead wood and other salmon can be used. Blue material can be used to depict the surrounding water.

**Bible reference:** 'In all your ways acknowledge him and he shall direct your paths.' (Proverbs 3:6 NKJV)

**Performance notes: As a drama** - Sammy should use the stage appropriate to his journey. Whilst it is important that the illusion of a journey is created, the actor needs to be careful not to over-exaggerate the fish element and make it too comical.

If more people want to be used, they can bring on other characters in the form of cut-outs on sticks. There could be a piece of dead wood and four or five other salmon cut-outs to swim alongside Sammy. Blue material can also be used to give the impression of the sea. It should be on the stage throughout and then shaken ferociously when there is the storm. The material also needs to rise above Sammy when he 'goes deeper'.

**As a thought** – The monologue can be used as a dramatic thought from the pulpit. In this case, although notes may be useful, don't forget to use facial expressions and still allow the character to come to life.

**As an audio** - This monologue is also available as an audio file (download from [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/maca-resources](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/maca-resources)) and so can be used without anyone having actually to 'perform' it. It is suggested that there is a multimedia slide showing a picture of 'Sammy the Salmon' so that the piece is both visual as well as audible.

# Sammy The Salmon

Written by Stephanie Lamplough

**Sammy**

OK, you can do this. I got this feeling that I want to get home.

*(Sings)* 'I got this feeling inside my... 'No, no – this is no time to be singing Justin Timberlake! Come on, Sammy, you want to get home, you're gonna get home. What did they tell you to do? They said it's going to be hard. It's going to be hard because you're going to feel as though you're swimming the wrong way. You're going against the tide but you gotta keep going. You may get distracted by people like...

*(Stops and signals to an imaginary fish swimming past)*

Oh, hey, Tommy! Tommy the Trout! How you doing?

I know I'm going the wrong way, but somehow this is the right way!

*(To himself)*

Why can't I just go play with Tommy the Trout?

*(Continues to 'swim')*

OK, I'm swimming. One fin forward, and back and back. OK, keep going... Oh look at that! There's a piece of dead wood. It just floats on by itself. It's so easy to float that way; how come I gotta go this way? But I don't want to be a piece of dead wood. It's so easy to float by, but no – I got to go the opposite way. But I'm still not getting anywhere. OK, let's think about this. If you find you're treading in water, you got to go deeper. So – here we goooo!!

*(Sound fades out)*

Wooow! Hey, it's so cold down here, but there's no tide. I can do this.

*(Swims easily and happily)*



## Sammy

I can go swimming. I'm swimming! And it's just me and the deep blue sea.

*(Pauses)*

Erm – it's so lonely down here on my own. My buddies are up there going the other way and I'm just swimming in the sea going home. But it's not hard, I can do this.

*(Swims to the left and to the right)*

Wow, I'm going left... I'm going right... what's going on? It's OK, it's just a storm – there have been storms before. You know you come out the other side, let's just keep going.

*(Stops swimming, shocked)*

Wow what is this? I've reached the end. It's a great big waterfall in front of me! I can't go under it, can't go round it, I've got to go through it. If I don't do that I can't get home. It's OK, I can do this, I just need a bit of faith. It's OK, it's OK... It's not OK! It's too much, it's too hard. It was OK when I was just swimming – a bit lonely, but just swimming. But I want to get home, so I know I've got to do this. It's hard, but I've got to do this.

*(Looks around)*

Wow, hello there! Hey, there's more salmon. Hi guys! Maybe we can do this together. We're going to have a gooooooo...!

*(Fading out)*

Did I make it?

*(Whispering)*

I think I made it! We all made it!

*(Rejoices)*

We did it! It was hard, but let's keep going. We're swimming, we're deep, nothing can go wrong, life is good! Wow, what was

**Sammy**

that? There's a mighty ripple. I'm going to go and investigate; you guys stay here. I'm going to go and see... Oh noo! There was a big hairy monster! It was a bear, wanting to gobble us all up. Let's goooo!

*(Swims frantically)*

*(Talks sadly)*

What do you mean? He got Salmon Sara? Oh no! This is all my fault, guys. I was distracted, I was tempted, I should have just kept going. You were following me, I had a responsibility and I let you down. I'm so sorry. I don't think I can keep going.

*(Stops and looks to the other fish and starts swimming)*

What? You're right, we gotta keep going. We gotta get home. OK, we can do this, let's keep swimming, let's keep thinking about where we're going, let's keep swimming and we're gonna get home, we're gonna... Oh guys, we made it! We're home!

# HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM

This scene reminds us that it doesn't matter how successful we are or how much importance we place on wealth, the gift of new life from God surpasses everything and puts previous desires into perspective. The sketch also reminds us of God's gift of his son Jesus given to us in the form of a baby.

**Theme:** Putting your life into perspective

**Cast:** Guy (a very dynamic businessman), nurse, a cast for the nativity scene (optional).

**Props:** Business suit, mobile phone, briefcase, party hat, a teddy bear, nurse's outfit, nurse's station/desk (if possible), a nail file, a magazine, a row of chairs to suggest a waiting room, some form of stage lighting and a large screen divider (optional).

**Bible reference:** 'Speaking to the people, he went on, "Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot.'" (Luke 12:15 MSG)

**Performance notes:** The staging of this scene is very important. You need to create the idea of a waiting room without many props or people.

Guy does a lot of talking to himself. It is important that he still delivers the lines to the front and doesn't mumble so that the audience can hear what he is 'thinking'.

The cast of the nativity scene behind the screen is a good way of using more people especially if they

don't want a speaking role. If the screen is lit from behind then the nativity will be in silhouette which will be even more effective. Alternatively, a sympathetic nativity scene could appear at that point on the multimedia screen if the people aren't

## Hospital Waiting Room

Anon

*(Guy arrives at the hospital reception desk, where a bored nurse sits filing her nails and flicking through a magazine. Guy is dressed in a suit with party hat still on his head and holding a teddy bear)*

**Guy** *(To himself)*

I better be in the right place this time – according to the map this should be it. I've put a couple of quid in the parking meter, which should be enough. I wouldn't have thought this would take longer than an hour. Now, Guy, pull yourself together. If you have ever had to remain cool-headed, it's now.

**Nurse** *(Using an almost rude tone)* Can I help you?

**Guy** I'm here to see my wife. She was brought in earlier to have a baby.

**Nurse** What's the name?

**Guy** Well, I'm not sure we've decided. If it's a girl we may call her Millie. If it's a boy...

**Nurse** *(Interrupts)* I mean the name of your wife, sir!

**Guy** Oh yes, sorry. The name of my wife... that would be Marie.

**Nurse** I'll just check. Make yourself comfortable.

**Guy** Make myself comfortable? In here?

*(Looks around in disgust)*

**Guy**

*(Says to himself)*

This is all very inconvenient. I'm supposed to be pinning down another deal. When better to corner a client than when they're merry on the bubbly at the Christmas party? They'll agree to anything out of Christmas cheer... What's the matter with me? I'm getting myself in a right state.

Funny how I deal with millions of pounds and make major decisions every day and yet I'm stressing at the thought of having a tiny baby.

*(Pauses)* That's it! I need to touch base with the office. That will help calm me down! I'll call Vivienne to warn her that I may be here for a little while. Well, an hour at least!

*(Guy starts 'smooth' talking on his mobile phone)*

Yeah, hi, it's Guy. Can you talk to Si?

*(Listens)* Can you tell him I want to buy... yeah... but we need to bounce around a few figures, study some data, run it up the flagpole and see if the cat licks it up... Thanks.

Now listen. I shouldn't be more than an hour, so keep the punters sweet and don't let them get too drunk. I want to catch them while they are unaware. Yeah, back as soon as poss. OK?

OK? Cheers.

*(Hangs up the phone)*

*(Says to himself)*

I hate Christmas parties anyway. All that so-called 'hilarity' with 'Mr Hilarious' (I don't think so) making photocopies of his face and singing at the top of his voice. It costs the company a fortune in cleaning!

*(Sighs)* What's the time?

**Guy** *(Checks his watch)*

Five minutes after I last checked. What is the matter with me? I'm a right wreck. I mentor some of the highest flyers in the business and here I am, a gibbering idiot.

I hope Marie is remembering her breathing...

*(Mimics the midwife's voice)* 'Two candles and a mirror'

*(Demonstrates overacted breathing techniques)*

*(His mobile phone rings, Guy picks up)*

Hi! Yes, it's Guy. Hi, Viv. Have you spoken to Si? I haven't got the details with me at the moment... sorry... I'm a bit tied up with some domestic circumstances...

*(Pauses)* No! Everything is fine, yep – under control... should be back in the office once I've wrapped it all up at this end. Tell you what. I have a window this evening so let's book a meeting in for... let me see...

*(Checks his watch)*

It's 6.30 now... let's say 8pm. In the meantime why don't you text me, email me, instant message me, just 'shimmy it down' here to me anyway you can and I'll reply to you henceforth, and forthwith, ASAP, RSVP, GMTV. Fab – thanks Viv. Bye!

*(Hangs up phone followed by a long pause)*

This is stupid.

*(Walks up to nurse)*

**Nurse** *(Looks up 'almost interested')* Yes, how can I help you?

**Guy** You were supposed to be finding out about my wife.

**Nurse** Ah yes, sorry. Just got distracted flicking through this celeb gossip magazine. Liz Hurley has really let herself go, hasn't she?

**Nurse** Fancy wearing stiletto flip-flops to a fish factory.

**Guy** *(Annoyed)* My wife... please?

*(Paces again)*

**Nurse** Oooooh... I'm pleased to inform you that you're now the proud father of a baby boy!

**Guy** *(The realisation suddenly hits him and he is pleasantly shocked)*

A boy? Wow! We've had a baby boy...

**Nurse** Yes. Mother and baby are both doing very well. You can go in and see them.

**Guy** *(Guy follows nurse off stage)* Of course. Yes, OK, I'll... I'll be right with you.

*(Spoken dumbstruck off stage)*

**Guy** Wow. A baby boy. You have in your head what it's going to be like, but nothing prepares you. I suppose this is it. The biggest thing ever to happen in my life – forget the great business deals, the successful promotions... This is real life. Makes most of the other stuff quite insignificant...Wow.

I'm going to have someone completely dependent on me. How on earth am I going to learn all the answers to those tricky questions he'll be asking? Who's going to teach me how to be a good parent? My baby, eh? Those tiny little fingers and those beautiful, innocent eyes. A right little bundle of joy.

Never really thought of myself as religious, but this puts everything into perspective. It reminds me of that nativity story we learnt about in school. I suppose this is what you might call a real miracle.

*(Light comes on to show Guy joining the nativity scene behind a screen).*

# DIRECT LINE TO HEAVENLY INTERVENTION

The scene highlights the fact that whilst the idea of whole-life discipleship is appealing, the realisation is that – although rewarding – whole-life discipleship demands giving our all to God in everything that we do.

**Theme:** Whole-life discipleship

**Cast:** Eddie (the name can be changed if played by a woman), Saint Paul

**Props:** Two chairs, a desk, cardboard clouds, two phones, a pile of paper, a feather pen/quill and a sign.

**Biblical reference:** ‘So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognise what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.’ (Romans 12:1-2 MSG)

**Performance notes:** The stage is split into two. Eddie is on the left-hand side with job application papers and a phone. He is reading through the job application to become a whole-life disciple and decides to call the direct line number provided to find out more details.



Saint Paul is on the right hand side of the stage. He is sitting at a desk which has job application papers and a phone on. He uses a feather pen/quill. Above the table is a clear sign that says 'Direct Line to Heavenly Intervention' showing a red telephone on wheels (using the Direct Line logo as reference), but with wings on it. There are also cardboard clouds around the desk to give the illusion of Heaven as the setting.

## Direct Line to Heavenly Intervention

Written by Stephanie Lamplough

**Eddie**

*(Speaking to himself)*

This job application seems too good to be true.

*(reading)*

'Job description:

To be a true whole-life disciple you must demonstrate Christian qualities in all aspects of life. Reflect Jesus Christ in EVERYTHING that you do and make sure that those who come into contact with you are able to see God's love shining through you.'

That sounds like me on a Sunday.

Surely if I took a job as a whole-life disciple, it would just be like being at church on a Sunday, but EVERY DAY?

How easy is that?

No Monday mornings – just Sunday after Sunday after Sunday.

Cool!

It's all a bit vague, though.

*(reading)*

'Job Location: Frontline'

**Eddie**

Frontline? What is that?

Is it some sort of new Territorial Headquarters building in London that I've not heard of?

*(reading)*

'Qualifications: You don't need any specific qualifications?'

*(aside)* Good job. I didn't really do Mondays as a child either!

*(reading)*

'Experience:'

OK, so it says 'Experience valuable but not necessary'.

But it doesn't say experience in what.

Life? I've certainly got that!

*(reading)*

'Date of Interview:'

Not needed – we know everything we need to know already.'

Sounds a bit like 'Big Brother'.

*(in best Geordie accent)*

'Day one in the Big Brother house.'

Hmm, I'm not sure I like the idea of someone always watching me.

Well, I've never applied for a job without actually being interviewed, and I've applied for lots of jobs.

So I don't get to meet the boss then?

This just gets stranger and stranger!

*(reading)*

'Salary: It doesn't list a salary, but says: 'Performance-related increments and rewards available daily.'

I thought all jobs had to have a starting salary? Mind you, imagine getting your rewards daily not annually!

**Eddie**

'Oh yes. I've had a good day today. I may just use my daily increment and buy myself a new car. Or maybe tomorrow I'll use my bonus to go on holiday!'

There is certainly incentive to work hard if that's the case!

*(reading)*

'Start date: You've already started.'

Now that's just weird! And what's this?

At the end it says: 'This job can suit everyone regardless of age, gender, race, past records and bad experiences.'

But surely it can't suit everyone? They're going to have all sorts of riffraff applying!

Oh well, I guess the others might make me look good. (Never thought I'd say that!)

Still, it's a bit weird – maybe it's protocol and they're just trying to cover their backs against discrimination.

Hang on. Right at the bottom there's a phone number to find out more. Should I?

I'm not sure. It's all just a bit too weird.

I've never seen an application like this before. But then again, I've never heard of a job like this either.

No more Monday mornings, every day is a Sunday. If I can do church, then maybe I can do this?

Well, I'm certainly intrigued. I may even have a chance if I don't have to have an interview, and it doesn't even sound as though they are bothered about my dodgy past.

OK, here goes...

*(types number into phone)*

It's ringing!

- Saint Paul** *(using best telephone voice)*  
Hello, you've called Direct Line to Heavenly Intervention.  
Saint Paul here, how can I help?
- Eddie** Er... Hello, Saint... I mean 'P Man'... I mean 'O Heavenly One'...  
*(aside)* This is not going well.
- Saint Paul** Ah, Eddie. We've been waiting for your call. Just call me Paul,  
that will be fine. So what do you want to ask me?
- Eddie** Er, nothing. I mean, everything. Well, it's about this job  
application form.
- Saint Paul** Yes?
- Eddie** Well, don't you think it's a bit weird? It says stuff, but it doesn't  
really tell you anything specific. It's almost as if it's vague on  
purpose. Like you don't know what you're getting into...  
Like the job could change daily...
- Saint Paul** Yes? And?
- Eddie** And... And...  
The salary is worked out in rewards?
- Saint Paul** Mmm. One of the best bits.
- Eddie** *(Looks confused)* And you don't need any qualifications?
- Saint Paul** Nope!
- Eddie** And you can apply if you're a child or if you're a granny?
- Saint Paul** Yep!
- Eddie** And you don't care about my dodgy past?
- Saint Paul** It makes you who you are!
- Eddie** And...  
And...  
And... well, don't you think that's all a bit...

**Saint Paul**

*(Interrupts)* Weird? No... I don't.

To say that anyone can do the job doesn't mean that anyone will do the job. Everyone is capable, but that doesn't make it easy. Many have tried and failed. Often those you would consider the most successful at other jobs are unable to do this one.

This job requires your EVERYTHING, and for many, that is too much to ask for.

Remember Jesus said: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.'

To be a true whole-life disciple you must first hand your life totally over to God. God must be at the centre of everything that you do, fully involved in every aspect of who you are: at home, at work, when you're enjoying music, food, sport and when you're in other people's company.

ESPECIALLY when you're in other people's company.

The conversations and the way we act will help people to form opinions on whether what we preach is real or fake.

How can we follow God's commandment to make new disciples if we don't practise what we preach?

The people that we come into contact with on a daily basis are our 'FRONTLINE'. This is our place of work, and just as the people who we come into contact with on a daily basis change, so does the work of a disciple – hence the ambiguity.

**Eddie**

OK, I get that now.

**Saint Paul**

And you were right. Being a whole-life disciple is not just about being a disciple on a Sunday. It's about taking that best disciple that we are on a Sunday and using it in everything that we do, every day of the week.

**Eddie** So I don't just repeat my Sunday. I take my Sunday into my Monday. So I still have to do Monday mornings then?

**Saint Paul** Monday mornings are often the hardest time. People forget about Sunday very quickly!

So, Eddie, you mentioned that there was no salary. You need to understand that when you hand over everything to God, money becomes less significant. You know that God will provide you with whatever you need. It may not be easy and it takes some adjusting to, but it's true and the freedom it gives you to focus on other things is truly overwhelming.

Sure, you can get daily rewards, but it often depends on how you are using your discipleship to serve others.

*(Eddie looks confused)*

**Saint Paul** Oh, and the rewards are not monetary.

*(Eddie looks disappointed)*

**Saint Paul** They can be the smile from the person you let go in front of you in the grocery shop.

It can be the 'Thank you' card from the old lady across the street who you invited for Sunday dinner so that she wasn't on her own.

*(Eddie starts to smile)*

**Eddie** But what about my dodgy past?

**Saint Paul** Think back to the first disciples, Eddie. Jesus chose to spend time with the outcasts of society. He saw deeper than the labels that society gave to people and believed in the power of forgiveness of sins. Jesus never judged, and neither should we.

Listen to the ten-year-old girl in your congregation. Don't dismiss her because of her age.

Welcome the smelly guy at the back to sit next to you and

**Saint Paul**

listen to what he has to say.

Day by day, learn to be more like Jesus and you can't go wrong.

**Eddie**

Ah... I'm slowly starting to understand. And you say I don't need an interview? That I've already started? I don't get that.

**Saint Paul**

Remember just last week, when you told your friends that you didn't want to get involved?

*(Eddie nods)*

When what they were doing didn't feel right, and instead of just going along with it, you stood up for what you believed in?

*(Eddie nods again)*

Well, that was being a whole-life disciple. I say to you what I said to the Romans.

'So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognise what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well formed maturity in you.'

You up for it, Eddie?

*(Saint Paul puts down the phone and looks directly at the congregation)*

And you?

Are YOU up for it?

# A PURPLE ROBE

Whilst primarily written as a monologue for Good Friday, this effective poem can be used when talking about sacrifice, pain or the cost Jesus bore to save our sins. As the piece is short, it could also be used as a prelude to a song or band piece.

**Theme:** Jesus' sacrifice and eventual victory over death.

**Cast:** Monologue

**Props:** Large purple cloth and red food colouring.

**Biblical reference:** 'When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"' (John 19:5 NIV)

'When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, "They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment." So this is what the soldiers did.' (John 19:23–24 NIV)

'Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.' (Hebrews 9:27–28 NIV)



**Performance notes:** This piece needs to be performed very slowly with regular pauses for reflection. Don't feel awkward when using silence as part of the piece, but try hard to maintain the atmosphere even when not physically doing anything.

Make sure that everybody can see the cloth at all times.

The words can also be sung to the tune 'Passing By' (32 SATB).

## A Purple Robe

Written by Catherine Wyles

*(Pick up a piece of purple material and show to congregation)*

**Verse 1**     The purple robe my Saviour wore,  
                  Given by men who beat him sore.  
                  One garment, seamless, priestly wear,  
                  A purple robe without a tear.

*(Lay the robe down on the floor and sit next to it)*

**Verse 2**     Neath Calvary's cross the soldiers played,  
                  Shunning the suffering there displayed,  
                  Seeking to win the robe he wore,  
                  Oblivious to the pain he bore.

*(Sprinkle drops of red food colouring on to purple material)*

*(Stand holding material across your arms)*

**Verse 3**     Dear Lamb of God who bore our sin,  
                  Passover Lamb, my freedom win. *(Drop cloth to the floor)*  
                  A purple robe so clearly showed  
                  Both priest and lamb on him bestowed.

# THE GREEDY SERVANT

**Theme:** Greed, selfishness

**Cast:** Sandra Kingston (a selfish woman), Mr Norton (bank manager/mortgage lender)  
Helen (Sandra's friend)

**Props:** High-end/designer branded shopping bags, eg Chanel, Jimmy Choo, Jack Wills etc (can be homemade), an envelope to be placed on the floor (side of stage), a desk with a telephone and a mobile phone.

**Bible reference:** 'Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

At this the servant fell on his knees before him. "Be patient with me", he begged, "and I will pay back everything". The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go.

But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. "Pay back what you owe me!" he demanded.

His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, "Be patient with me, and I will pay it back." But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.' (Matthew 18:23–30 NIV)

**Performance notes:** This sketch can be performed without props if preferred.

Mr Norton and Helen enter only when speaking and stand either side and slightly behind Sarah.

The two secondary parts can be played by one person, with or without a small costume change, eg a tie for the bank manager, jacket for the friend etc.

## The Greedy Servant

Written by Ira Thomas

*(Sandra enters humming and talking to herself, carrying lots of high-end shopping bags indicating she has lots of money. She puts them down on the envelope).*

**Sandra** I suppose I shouldn't have spent so much, but I'm fed up with bills and debts – they can wait. I work hard and I deserve to enjoy myself.

*(Pauses)* I wonder if the bank will believe me, again, if I spin a few more white lies like, 'I was attacked and had my handbag stolen'... That sounds a bit dramatic, and I'll probably need a police reference.

Or what about...

'After a very serious fall, sadly, my mother has had to be moved into a care home and I find myself, unexpectedly, having to contribute to very expensive care costs'?

That sounds more believable, although I must try and remember what I said the last time I lied to the bank. Oh, anyway, it's worth a try.

*(Dismissively)* If I haven't got it, I can't pay it.

*(Reaches for her phone and calls)*

**Mr Norton** *(Enters)* Good afternoon – Mortgage Lenders Unit. How can I help you?

**Sandra** *(In a gentle, childlike voice)*  
Good afternoon, this is Ms Sandra Kingston. I currently have a mortgage with you. The mortgage account number is 3579023.

**Mr Norton** Ah – Ms Kingston, we have been trying to contact you...

**Sandra** *(interrupts in a panic before he can say any more)*  
Well, the thing is, I have had a great deal of unforeseen expenditure. As a family, we have been so upset due to our mother having had a fall and needing expensive care. I have heard that sometimes you allow a smaller payment for personal reasons and I was just hoping...

**Mr Norton** *(interrupts)* Ms Kingston, can I stop you there please. There seems to be an alert on your mortgage – let me just open your account and find your details please...

*(Sandra looks very worried)*

**Mr Norton** Well, Ms Kingston, I'm pleased to say it's very good news.

*(Sandra looks confused)*

**Mr Norton** Someone from the bank will be in contact with you later today by phone, but we will also send a confirmation in the post.

**Sandra** *(Crossly)* Confirmation? Of what?

**Mr Norton** Of course, sorry, I should explain. As a mark of loyalty and service to our customers, we have awarded full mortgage repayment to three of our lenders, of whom you are one. There will be a presentation at the Dorchester Hotel in London where you will receive the deeds to your house. On that day, the bank will be delighted to announce that you, Ms Kingston, will become the proud owner of your home, number 27 Kings Avenue.

**Sandra** Er... What? That's incredible! Please just check again that it's me. Um... When will I receive confirmation? I'm assuming, of course, that from today's date, I do not need to pay anything further?

**Mr Norton** That's correct, a confirmation will be sent to you shortly. Enjoy your day, Ms Kingston. Goodbye.

**Sandra** Bye.

*(Hangs up and laughs) Wow!*

*(After a couple of moments, her phone rings)*

**Helen** Hi, Sandra, I'm just calling to ask if you're coming out for Jane's birthday on Saturday? We need to plan how we are really going to spoil her.

**Sandra** I might – but I'm really annoyed that you used me last time we went out. I suppose it's slipped your mind that I subbed you a fiver for your cab fare home. You just seem to have forgotten all about it, but I need it back.

**Helen** Oh Sandra, I'm so sorry. Being a student means that my loan doesn't go very far, but I just love being out with you all – and I thought, probably wrongly, that as you are earning, you wouldn't mind helping me out that time. I won't ask again, especially as Jane had mentioned that you were 'a bit short' this month. So I posted an envelope with the money through your door this morning. I hope it's still there? Sandra? Sandra?

*(Long pause)*

**Sandra or other** Matthew 18:32-34 (The Message) says: 'The king summoned the man and said "You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn't you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?"'

# THE LIFEGUARD

**Theme:** This sketch talks about how, as Christians, we often think that we are doing the right thing, and don't always understand what has gone wrong when we fall short. The only one who can give us all that we need spiritually is God. He is genuinely a 'lifeguard' because he will guard us and keep us safe in this life and for eternity if we call out to him. The parallels with Jesus as the Good Shepherd are apparent throughout.

**Cast:** Lifeguard (male or female)

**Props:** The person should be dressed for swimming but 'over-the-top' on extras, eg goggles, armbands, rubber ring, float, walkie-talkie, notebook and megaphone.

**Bible references:** 'To you, Lord, I call; you are my Rock, do not turn a deaf ear to me... Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard my cry for mercy. The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.' (Psalm 28:1,6-7 NIV)

'The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.' (Psalm 23:1-4 NKJV)

**Performance notes:** The text formatted in **bold** should be spoken into a megaphone or with a loud voice.

Try to give the illusion of the person 'drowning' being far away by going on your tip toes and pointing into the distance. Then change your stance when talking to the audience (yourself). Allow time for laughter between sentences.

## The Lifeguard

Written by Lemoyne Bowyer

### Lifeguard

This is my first day as a lifeguard. I've done the training and I'm raring to go, ready to patrol this beach and spring into action at the first sign of trouble.

**You there, get off the rocks! Lady with the blue hat, watch out for the sharks!**

Only kidding! I've got all the equipment – flippers, rubber ring, float, swimming cap, plus my radio and megaphone.

**Hey, you two over there, stop messing about! I can see you're only pretending to drown. Behave yourselves!**

Some people will do anything for attention. Oh, excuse me, radio message coming through.

*(Listens to radio)*

Oh, apparently they are not messing about. They really are drowning.

**Hold on and don't worry! We're coming to get you.**

*(Hastily)* It's my first emergency, what do I do? Don't panic, don't panic. What did they teach us in training again?

*(Flicks through notebook)*

## Lifeguard

It says I should swim out to them! What? Me? Get in the water? Oh no, it's freezing cold and too rough, full of seaweed and there might be jellyfish or something else nasty in there. There must be something else we can do.

**You're doing really well. It really won't be too long now. I'll make you a nice cup of tea when you come out. Do you take sugar?**

I know! I'll call for help.

*(Uses radio)*

We need a helicopter rescue, just off the beach near the lifeguard station. It's an emergency! No, I can't do it on my own. Please hurry.

They weren't very co-operative. Kept arguing over who should do the rescue. Ah, I can see the helicopter now... it's picked up the two lads.

**Well done, everybody! Good work all round!**

It's nice to think I played a part in that rescue. Oh, radio again.

*(Listens to radio)*

NO! I've just been sacked! I don't believe it, after all I did! It's so unfair!

*(Walks away discouraged)*



# I'VE BEEN TO CHURCH!

**Theme:** This is a light-hearted sketch, almost 'tongue in cheek', which looks at people's perception of church and challenges Christians to look at the influence that they have on others.

**Cast:** Monologue - male or female

**Props:** Mobile phone

**Bible references:** 'And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.' (Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV)

**Performance notes:** When performing a monologue, it is important that the audience is drawn in to your conversation and that they feel a part of it. Be careful not to direct the dialogue just to one place even though you are talking into the phone. Perhaps try pacing up and down and be quite animated with your face and hands as you talk.

# I've been to Church!

Written by Rachel Gotobed

*(Character enters, mobile phone rings – they answer)*

Hi Joanne, it's me. Guess where I've been? No, not shopping. No, not to the gym. Go on... you'll never guess! OK, OK, I'll tell you. Are you ready for this? – I've been to church!

Joanne, are you still there? Yes, I did say I went to church! Now there's no need for blasphemy! Why? Well, because my neighbour Mary kept on asking me, and I couldn't think of any more excuses not to go! Actually, it wasn't that bad. Everyone was very friendly, and there were a few people I recognised from school and round the town. Overall, I'd say it was a surprisingly pleasant experience.

The singing was good. There were a couple of hymns I knew from school, and for the more trendy songs I just mimed and smiled so I looked like everyone else... I even clapped my hands at one point! I think some of the people were having a bit of bother though... they kept putting their hands up but no one excused them, so I was glad I went before it started.

The prayers were lovely and the choir sang beautifully... No, I didn't know the song. It was something about 'a cleansing flood', and so all I could think of were those poor people who'd had their hands up previously! No... there didn't appear to be any water anywhere, although the man who gave the notices said something about them raising £500 for flood relief, so that might have something to do with it!

He also said that there was going to be a large ladies' (men's) meeting next Tuesday, but he didn't clarify what size you have to be, so I don't think we'll be big enough to qualify. Oh yes, that's a good idea – I'll tell Jean, as she goes to Weight Watchers at the church and the man did say about them having to use the double doors, so that must be it.

I thought it was a bit rude myself, but they must be into plain speaking at this church, because he also said that if you knew anyone who was sick of the church that you should put their name on a list on the notice board so the vicar could visit them.

Well, we had coffee after the service and I overheard a few people moaning and groaning, and because I don't know their names, I couldn't put them on the list... But from what I heard, I think they were a bit sick of the church and the last thing they would want is a visit from the vicar!

No, he seemed all right to me. His talk was OK. He talked about 'loving your neighbour', and I was so glad that we moved last year 'cos you know what problems we had with them at number 26! Mary's OK, though – she kept grinning at me like a Cheshire cat all the time he was speaking. Which reminds me, I must tell her to keep her cat out of my garden, it's ruining my rhododendrons!

There was a band there this morning. Mostly tuneful, but the drummer thought he was from Genesis... No, he didn't look like Noah or Adam... No, he had more hair than Phil Collins... I just meant... Look, why don't you come with me next time and then you can see him for yourself?

Yes, I am thinking of going again, at Easter. The vicar said that he has asked Mrs Lewis to lay an egg on the altar this year... You'd like to see that too? Great, we can go together – put it in your diary.

Right then, I must go. Mary wants to know what I thought of the service, so I'm going to pop round. And I'll mention about the cat too – in a 'love your neighbour' kind of way!

Bye!

*(Exits)*



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