

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)