

God Wins, Satan Loses

Wheeler church of Christ (220) ~ LTC Video Bible Drama 2021

Scene 1 - all the kids are hanging backdrops, getting props and costumes out, talking (silently) to each other, obviously preparing for a production. Setting up and understanding the background of Revelation.

Sam: *(peer head around camera)* Hey there! My friends and I are trying to prepare for something really special. It is a recorded drama, and we are planning on submitting it for an event called Leadership Training for Christ. We all enjoy acting, but are having some trouble actually writing the script. Would you like to come along and see if you can give us a hand? Come on!
(motion towards the group and move towards them.)

Matia: Here comes Sam, finally! Where have you been? We are trying to get started. I have all the animals we could possibly need! *(show basket of animals)*

Emoree: Take 1, Scene 1 . . . and A-C-T-I-O-N! *(CLAPPER)*

Addie: I am ready with my checklist, right here. *(hold up clipboard)* I need to include all the props and costumes on my timeline. My Mom is going to need a lot more time if you guys make me wear a cow suit again! *(All laugh)*

Truett: Swords, swords, we need lots of swords!

Etta: Calm down, Truett. We will probably have a sword in this production. Now, where is my needle and thread to get this sash on right?

Emoree: Will we need this thing? *(holds up palm tree)*

Gannon: Will there be snacks? I need plenty of snacks.

Stanford: Allright, allright. Everybody gather around. Let's get organized. You know we don't have a lot of time to get this done. Sam, remind us where we left off after last time we were together.

Sam: *(have Bible and LTC rulebook)* Well, we had finished reading all the book of Revelation, so at least we know what our text is. We know our time limit and what the theme is. Anybody remember?

Matia: Me! Me! I remember! It's easy for me! We learned that The Lamb was most important of all! I love lambs - they are so soft and fuzzy.

Sam: Yes, Matia. The Lamb was important, but does anyone remember the theme? What should our drama focus on in Revelation?

Truett: Swords? Swashbuckling? Saving damsels in distress? *(swish your sword towards Emoree)*

Emoree: Hey - watch out for that thing! You are dangerous! I don't want to get hurt!

Stanford: Gannon, how do you think the theme relates to us?

Gannon: Theme? What do I care? None of this ever applies to me. I'm only here because I have to. I have bigger plans than all of this . . . *(wave hands across)* It's not even **worth** my time to be here.

Addie: That's it, Gannon! You got it! Worthy! That's the theme! *(Gannon scowl)*

All kids except Gannon: Worthy!

Matia: But, that's where we got stuck last time. The book of Revelation is so hard to understand! Remember? *(All shake heads yes.)*

Stanford: Well, then let's start at the beginning. Use what we know to figure out what we don't know. We know it is the last book of the Bible. We know it is the inspired and true Word of God because it's in the Bible.

Etta: We also know that Jesus had something to say, there were a lot of loud voices, strange creatures and numbers for everything.

Sam: You all are right and like every good production, we need to have a setting. Emoree, bring that palm tree over here. Gannon, would you mind playing the part of a very important character? His name is John and he actually wrote the book of Revelation. See, *(point to Bible)* it says so right here. *(Gannon shrugs, Etta & Addie lead Gannon under the palm tree, hand scroll, and put tattered clothes on him.)*

Stanford: Next, we know that John was exiled to the island called Patmos. He would have been guarded by the Romans for being a threat to the empire, just for teaching and preaching about God and his Son, Jesus. Sort of like a Bible time Alcatraz!

Truett: *(run over, dramatic, draw sword)* Truett's the name and guarding the bad guy is my game! I'm the man for this part!

Gannon: Teaching? Preaching? Really? Going to prison for that? Not worth the hassle.

Addie: People, we need to stay on schedule. *(point to clipboard)* Let's keep going. What's next?

Emoree: *(look at, point in Sam's Bible)* I remember a description of someone . . . or something. Lampstands, a robe and maybe some white, wooly hair?

Matia: Wool? Wool? Yes! I would love to, thank you! *(Matia run to center, Addie put white robe, sash, wooly, white hair, bronze feet, Etta bring blazing eyes, lamp and star)*

Truett: Don't forget the sword coming out of the mouth . . . ha-ha! *(stand behind Matia with sword coming out of mouth - Matia obviously uncomfortable)*

Sam: So, let's get something straight. The Bible tells us that John being exiled, the island, writing it all down. . . that was all really happening. But, some of the things we read about in Revelation . . . well, they are what God calls a vision.

Gannon: That is what I thought -- not true, none of it. Just somebody's crazy dream after eating too many palm leaves and they wanted to be famous for writing a book.

Stanford: We can't claim to be Christians if we only say we believe one part of the Bible and not all of it, right? Do you believe that there was a great flood and Noah built the ark? *(All think, then shake head yes.)* That David took down a great giant? *(All think, then shake head yes.)* That Jonah was swallowed by a fish and lived to tell about it? *(All think, then shake head yes.)* It's all or nothing, my friends. *(Gannon still not convinced)*

Etta: *(go look in Sam's Bible)* This next part is going to be easy to act out. John writing the letters to the 7 churches. . . Estranged Ephesus!

Addie: Next was Steadfast Smyrna and Permissive Pergamum!

Emoree: Tolerant Thyatira. I got it right! *(all cheer)*

Matia: I believe Sardis was next . . . Sleeping Sardis, that is!

Truett: Faithful Philadelphia! I wonder if they carried their swords around everywhere?

Sam: Gannon, can you remember the last hint? John wrote a letter to the church in Laodecia . . .

Gannon: *(thinking)* Lukewarm. I remember.

Stanford: Has anybody noticed that after every letter to the churches, it says, “He who has ears, let him hear?” I think we have solved this . . . it means that God’s people should listen and obey. Case closed. God wins, Satan loses. That’s a wrap! *(All shake heads and agree, saying “Ok, sounds good.” Get up to leave.)*

Sam: Hold it! Hold it! We can’t leave! We are supposed to film a video! Come back! *(All leave, camera zooms in on John/Gannon who is writing like crazy.)*

Scene 2- Who is actually worthy and why it is so important.

Sam: *(pop up in front of camera)* Hey friends. Our last meeting did not end exactly the way I thought it would. Today, we are going to keep working on our drama and hopefully I’ll end up with some good video. Come see what we get done! *(Sam moves towards scene)*

Emoree: Take 1, Scene 2 . . . and A-C-T-I-O-N! *(CLAPPER)*

Addie: Ok guys, let's get busy on this. I have my list and I want to stick with it. What's first?

Etta: How about using this for the throne? *(Bring a chair to the front)* And we are going to need 24 elders . . . *(count and point to all the people)* Uh oh. I don't have enough fabric to make that many costumes!

Emoree: We've got some old paper that can look like a scroll. Look at this . . . a bunch of . . . uuhhhmmm . . . I guess we can call them animals. . . *(Matia, Emoree, Addie, Etta all look at Bible, read first, then faces get wild, eyes wide, scared)*

Matia: I am not sure I have anything in my animal collection that looks like this. I'm gonna need a glue gun and a bunch of googly eyes from Hobby Lobby!

Truett: *(run over in front of girls, draw sword)* Don't worry ladies -- I've got this handled. I will protect you from these creatures!

Stanford: *(calm Truett down, hands on his shoulders)* There is mention of swords in this next part of Revelation, Truett. And there are horses and lambs and angels and eagles and mountains and bowls and stars *(kids start looking bored)* and earthquakes and fig trees and bowls and incense and wings and crowns and lightning . . . *(kids start falling asleep)* and lamps and spirits and jasper and ruby and crowns and winds and rocks . . . *(kids are all snoring)*

Sam: Ok everybody, wake up, let's focus. I know it is a lot of . . . well . . . nouns!

Gannon: It's all a bunch of goobldy-gook.

Addie: I know what you mean, Gannon. It does seem so confusing!

Etta: And all those numbers . . . so many numbers . . . I'm going to need more in the costume budget!

Stanford: Numbers like seven and twelve-thousand and twenty-four and four and one-hundred forty-four thousand (*kids start yawning*) and one thousand and ten and six and one-third and three and a half and one thousand two hundred sixty and forty-two and (*kids are falling asleep*) three and . . . Hey Sam, can you help me out here?

Sam: Ok, ok. Now, we have to remember something -- the book of Revelation is a vision. Not literal. It's . . . well . . . sort of like pictures and numbers to help us understand the story!

Truett: Sort of like when we were first learning to read and mom gave us one of those board books that only had pictures and no words?

Emoree: I miss the books with only the pictures. Life was surely easier in kindergarten.

Stanford: That's a great way to think of it, Truett!

Gannon: And what about this worthy thing? What does it mean to be worthy?

Sam: Ok, Let's look at this prop -- it's supposed to be the scroll with 7 seals. We don't know what was in the scroll, we just know it was important. Etta, get Matia in her lamb costume and on the throne.

Etta: Aye-aye, sir!

Matia: Yes! I am in my happy place!

Sam: Truett, come pretend like you are trying to open this scroll. And no, you can't use your sword.

Truett: Ok. Not the way I would do it, but, oh well. Wait a minute . . . Why am I unable to open the scroll?

Stanford: I don't want to upset you, buddy, but. . . well . . . you aren't **worthy** to open the scroll. Actually, **none** of US *(wave arms around the room)* are worthy.

Addie: I'll tell you -- it is WORTH a lot for us to stay on schedule. Keep it rolling!

Matia: Remember - only the **Lamb** is worthy to open the scroll.

Sam: The Bible tells us that the Lamb is actually Jesus, the Son of God!

Etta: It says there were many voices, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. That's a lot of voices!

Addie: Look what it says next . . . "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

Emoree: It also says they were **not** using their **inside** voice. I would get in trouble at home if I did that! *(all laugh)*

Sam: There's our theme! Our reward will be the opportunity to live in Heaven with God.

Gannon: Yes, but how is anyone worthy? We ALL make bad choices.

Sam: That's just it . . . We become worthy **only** because Jesus was willing to die on the cross for all of our sins, even though he was perfect. The one perfect sacrifice to pay the price for us.

Stanford: Ok . . . that's it! Show's over! God wins, the devil loses. Time to go eat!

(All shake heads and agree, saying "Ok, sounds good." Get up to leave.)

Sam: Wait! We're not done! Remember . . . video . . . filming? AAARRRRGGGGHHH!!! You guys . . . ! *(All leave. Sam place*

Bible down next to Gannon, he picks up and starts reading)

Gannon: . . . a great multitude, from every nation, tribe, people and language. . . wearing white robes . . .holding palm branches *(look up at palm tree)*. . . who are they? Where did they come from . . . washed robes . . .made them white in the blood of the Lamb." *(really thinking hard) (All kids come back, gather around Gannon.)*

Truett: Hey Gannon, don't you want to come eat with us? I'll share my sword with you.

Matia: Yeah and I'll let you hold one of my fuzzy stuffed animals.

All: Come on, Gannon. Come with us. We miss you. We don't want to go without you.

Gannon: You guys didn't have to come back for me. Sorry, I have been sort of grouchy.

Addie: We understand. All of us have things we need to work on improving. *(all shake heads)*

Etta: Besides, that's what friends are for. We should surround ourselves with those that will help us get to Heaven! Like you guys!

Stanford: Exact reason we are doing this drama -- we want **all** people to know that the book of Revelation is sort of like a summary of the entire Bible . . . you know . . .

Gannon: I know, I know . . . God wins. Satan loses. I get it. *(All cheer!)*

Emoree: Hey, what do you guys want me to do with all this gold paint? And I found something to make a river - it's going to be great! *(all start to walk off together, talking. Sam comes to camera.)*

Sam: Well, I'm glad you were with us for this adventure. I think I got some pretty good stuff for our video Bible drama, wouldn't you say? *(camera shake up and down)* Now to go edit and get it sent in. I can't wait to see how it turns out . . . Hey, wait for me . . . I've got some ideas for the credits . . . *(Sam follows kids off stage)*

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- ★ Sam - narrator, teacher, Bible
 - ★ Stanford - teacher, encourager
 - ★ Gannon - doubter, feels not worthy
 - ★ Truett - action packed, Roman soldier, seeking adventure, swords
 - ★ Etta - props and costumes
 - ★ Matia - all things sheep and animal
 - ★ Addie - organizer, clipboard (Sam took these lines)
 - ★ Emoree - clapper, helps with props (Etta and others took these lines)

Note - video is different from script due to illness and sheep showing . . . :)