

Count on it

Living in the certainty of God's Word



Junior Church Story/Drama

Use EITHER (1a) Drama Sketch 'God is Here' OR (1b) 'Story Time'

1a. DRAMA SKETCH: GOD IS HERE

For use with children aged approx 7–9 in the Junior Church programme.

A: *(Sweeping up – A mimes stepping on a piece of chewing gum which sticks his shoe to the floor – with a long sticky string)*

Trouble, trouble, trouble. It's just one thing after another. Everything's gone wrong. *(He gets gum off shoe)*

B: Oh, stop moaning and get on with it.

A: Look at us, picking up litter, emptying bins and sweeping the streets. We shouldn't be doing this. In our own country we were rich.

B: All that's in the past. There was a war. We lost. We're not in our own country any more. The winners got the good stuff – we got this. Get used to it. Get over it.

A: But...but... God was supposed to look after us. What happened? *Where is God?*

ALL: God is here. God is now. You can count on it!

B: God did look after us. We're alive, aren't we? We even have jobs... we're really lucky to have any job at all.

A: But this is an awful job. The only jobs we can get in this country are awful jobs. Jobs that nobody else wants to do. I expected God to look after me. And here I am doing this rotten stuff. Before the war, when we were back home, when we were rich I always felt that God was right there looking after me. But I don't feel like that now. So I'd like to know - *Where is God?*

ALL: God is here. God is now. You can count on it!

A: Oh yeah? I'm not so sure. God was with us, in the old days. But I don't think he's here.

B: Twit.

A: What did you say?

B: Twit. Look over there.

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A: (*Looks*) And?

B: What do you see?

A: Hills. Trees. Grass. Dandelions.

B: And how did they get there?

A: Well, they grew. Apart from the hills. They're just ...well...*there*.

B: And who put them there?

A: I don't suppose anyone *put them there*. THEY'RE JUST THERE. They're hills. Part of the planet. Creation.

B: Exactly. Part of God's creation. The hills, the grass, the trees, the dandelions. So if God made all these things, then he's here, isn't he? He wouldn't just wander off and leave them.

A: I suppose not...

B: And he hasn't left *us* either.

A: Oh no?

B: No. We won't be sweeping streets for ever. God will get us out of this. He's promised. And God keeps his promises.

A: Well...maybe. But life here is so tough. It's hard to believe things will ever get better.

B: That's what the Book's for. It's full of stories to help us remember that God will never leave us. Never let us down.

A: (*Putting his hood up*) Oh, now it's starting to rain.

B: Good.

A: Are you mad? We'll get soaked.

B: Rain. One of God's ways of helping creation along. When it rains all the green stuff grows. Rain does the job God means it to do.

A: Hmm. Yes, I'm sure rain's wonderful – but it's so*wet*.



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B: Rain is reliable. You can trust rain to turn up and make everything green. It never fails. Just like God's message.

A: Yeah, yeah.

B: You know you wouldn't be half so miserable if you'd tune into God's message.

A: Like I said, *Where's God?*

ALL: **God is here. God is now. You can count on it!**

A: *(To audience)* You're beginning to get on my nerves.

(To B) You're not going to let this drop, are you? Go on then. Tell me the message.

B: It's powerful. Every story and saying in God's book is powerful. They stick in your head, change the way you think and grow into brilliant ideas. They change us.

A: I don't want to change. I like me the way I am.

B: What, miserable and moaning?

A: Cheek!

B: If you trust the stories in the book you won't be miserable anymore, because you'll know - you'll know in your heart and soul and in your very bones that God will always be here for you. He'll never stop taking care of you. He'll never let you down. And you'll stop asking that stupid question!

A: What question?

B: **WHERE IS GOD?**

ALL: **God is here. God is now. You can count on it!**

(Adapted from material prepared by Jan Dean)

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1b. STORY TIME: Isaiah 55:1-11

This is a version of the Isaiah reading written to involve young children with mime and actions. It can be used to introduce Junior Church activities for ages 5–6. If you practise it a couple of times, you could present it to the rest of the church family towards the end of the service.

Actions to practise before you tell the story.

- sad faces and happy faces; hand behind ear for listening
- give yourself a hug for feeling safe and loved
- flex your muscles to show how strong you are

You could also practice a 'big shout' for the end of the story. It could be *alleluia!* Or *amen!* Or *yeah!* Practise it as a response to 'You can count on it!'

Rain and seed mime

Start with your hands high above your head, then wiggle your fingers and bend lower and lower till you touch the ground. Next, let your fingers wiggle like growing stalks, rise up until you are standing on tiptoe with your arms up high, imitating the grown plants.

The story

(Children sit round edges of room – they are lost.)

The people of God were lost.

They were in a strange place and they were sad and scared. *(faces)*

So God sent his friend Isaiah to them with an important message.

'Come on,' said Isaiah. 'Don't worry. Don't be sad. Don't be scared. God has sent you a message.' *(beckon to children who come and sit together)*

So the people came and listened. *(hand behind ear)*

Isaiah showed them God's holy book. *(scroll, book, CD)*

'This is full of good things,' Isaiah said.

'Full of *God* things,' Isaiah said.

'Full of stories and songs and messages from God.

Listen *(ear)* to the stories, sing the songs, hear the messages and they will make you feel safe. *(hug)*

Listen *(ear)* to the stories, sing the songs, hear the messages and they will make you feel happy. *(happy face)*

Listen *(ear)* to the stories, sing the songs, hear the messages and you will know God loves you. *(hug)*

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God won't leave you sad. God will take care of you.
Think of rain gently falling on the ground. (*rain mime*)
Remember how the rain makes the seeds grow.
The gentle rain always makes the seeds grow. (*seed growing mime*)
Rain makes plants grown tall and strong. (*muscles*)
You can trust the rain to do its job.
And God's Word is as reliable as rain.
You can trust God's Word.
You can trust the stories, songs and messages God sends.
Listen (*ear*) to the stories, sing the songs and hear the messages and you will grow strong (*muscles*) and happy (*face*) and safe (*hug*) in God's hand.
God's messages never fail. You can count on it.' (*big shout*)

(Adapted from material prepared by Jan Dean)