

AUTHOR'S NOTE: *It is Finished* is a 20–30 minute, one-act play. It consists of one main conversation between a mother and her daughter (Scenes 1 and 6) and four shorter dialogues (Scenes 2–5) which take place in the imaginations of the mother and daughter. All scenes are intended to be acted out in rapid succession, with no delay between scenes. The focus of the play is to illuminate the depth and impact of Jesus' few short words, "It is finished," spoken on the cross in John 19:30, at the very end of His earthly life.

It Is Finished

by gratefulsue

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For inquiries, please go to www.gratefulsue.com and submit your questions on the Contact page, or email gratefulsue@gmail.com.

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CHARACTERS BY SCENE

All characters listed below must be different actors, except for the two main characters from Scene 1, who must reappear in Scene 6. The total number of actors required is 16. Their names are neither needed nor mentioned in the dialogue. Switching the suggested genders of characters is permitted, based on the director's pool of potential actors, so long as an attempt is made to maintain a good balance of males and females. Age suggestions are more important.

Scene 1: Question Mother and her teen daughter (age 15–16)

Scene 2: Scavenger Hunt Mixed group of six kids (ages 10–12), and one male adult

Scene 3: Champions Two athletes, same gender, preferably football players (age 17–18)

Scene 4: Forgiven Father and his son (age 9)

Scene 5: Jigsaw Puzzle Boy (age 10), girl (age 13), and female teen (age 16–19)

Scene 6: Answer Same mother and teen daughter from Scene 1

BLOCKING

Blocking for the five settings used in the six scenes depends entirely upon the amount of space wherever the production takes place. For a very large stage, Option 1, below, is the desired scenario. For smaller stages, and church settings, Options 2 will be necessary. However, if neither blocking option works for your space, the play may be adapted to your specific needs and restrictions. Lighting is also flexible. All lighting notes are preferred, yet still optional. Seek to utilize lighting in a way that communicates that Scenes 2–5 are taking place *in the imaginations* of the mother and daughter in Scenes 1 and 6. Ideally, the auditorium/seating area is dark, and the stage is also dark everywhere, except for the area where the one or two scenes being played out are spotlighted.

Blocking Option 1 - Large Stage (BO-1): The props for Scene 1 (& 6) are placed in the center of the stage, and the actors for Scenes 2–5 come on from stage left or stage right, alternately, like a set of parentheses around the center bedroom scene. As soon as each scene ends, the spotlights go out on that small section of the stage, but the actors remain there frozen until Scene 6. Thus, by Scene 5, all 16 actors for each of the five settings would be on stage: two scenes on the left, two scenes on the right, Scene 1 (& 6) in the center. All scenes need to be visible to the audience simultaneously, not hindering the audience’s view of the actors from another scene.

During Scene 6: “Answer.” One or two spotlights will illuminate the bedroom setting and actors the whole time, while a second spotlight (not as bright) will illuminate one of the other four settings (containing the frozen actors), one at a time. The frozen actors then unfreeze and pantomime low-key actions appropriate to their scene for as long as the spotlight is on them, while the dialogue of the characters in Scene 6 is simultaneously acted out—according to stage directions in brackets [], written in Scene 6. Once the pantomime portion is over for characters in Scenes 2–5, each set of those actors will exit the stage, one scene at a time, when their spotlight goes out.

Blocking Option 2 - Small Stage (BO-2): If the stage does not have enough room to accommodate all 16 actors on the stage at the same time, then one side of the stage (e.g., stage left) will contain the props for Scenes 1 and 6. The opposite side of the stage (e.g., stage right) is for Scenes 2–5. Those characters and props will all enter and exit, one at a time, from stage right. It would be helpful to have a screen or small wall separating the two sides of the stage and the actors in Scenes 1 & 6 from those in Scenes 2–5, as long as it doesn't hinder the audience from seeing the actors on both sides of the "wall."

During Scene 6, one spotlight will illuminate the bedroom setting the whole time, and a second spotlight (not as bright) will illuminate the actors from Scenes 2–5, who will take turns appearing on stage right (minus the tables and chairs) and going away—according to the stage directions in brackets [], written in Scene 6. For example, Scene 2 actors will come on stage and be spotlighted for a few minutes, pantomiming low-key actions appropriate to their scene while the dialogue of the characters in Scene 6 is simultaneously acted out. When the spotlight goes out on the Scene 2 characters, they will then exit—to make room for the Scene 3 actors, who will enter, take their place, and freeze until the spotlight comes up on them, and so on.

SCENE 1: Question

Note: Throughout the drama, *italics indicates intended audible emphasis* in each scene. Director's instructions as well as scripture references are in brackets [], and are *not* intended to be part of the dialogue.

[For notes on blocking, see instructions on pages 4 - 5. As the curtain opens, the spotlight comes up on a girl, age 14 - 15, lying on her bed, on her stomach, her head at the foot of the bed, dressed in daytime, casual clothing, reading her Bible. There is a nightstand with a lamp and an alarm clock by her bed. Her shoes are off, lying on a rug on the floor by her bed. Her mother walks onto the set from off stage, into her room, then stands at the side of the bed, or near the foot of the bed. She should move around some while speaking, or perhaps also sit on the bed, throughout Scenes 1 & 6.]

Mother: Honey, it's getting late. Don't forget, we need to leave the house for church a little earlier than usual tomorrow. It's going to be really crowded for the Easter service, so, we want to leave a little earlier in order to get good seats.

Daughter: Yeah, I know. [She sits up, cross-legged on the bed.] I already set my alarm clock.

Mother: Why don't you go ahead and get ready for bed?

Daughter: Alright. I will in a minute. Mom, I was just rereading the account of the crucifixion. [She picks up the Bible.] It seems kinda funny to me that Jesus says, "It is finished," when He's dying. Like, yeah, no kidding. His life is over, it's finished!

Mother: True! But, I don't think that's the *only* reason He said, "It is finished."

Daughter: Really? What do you mean? Why else would He say that?

Mother: Well, many things in Jesus' life were coming to a climax at the hour of His crucifixion, not just His physical life. I believe His words refer to those other things

as well. After all, just think about the varied types of situations in our lives today where someone might say, "It is finished..."

[BO-1 and BO-2: Mother and daughter freeze in place but do not leave the stage. Lights go out on Scene 1: "Question." Bed and nightstand stay put throughout the play. Characters remain frozen until instructed otherwise in Scene 6.]

SCENE 2: Scavenger Hunt

[See blocking instructions on pages 4-5 for placement of new characters on the stage. A spotlight comes up on a group of six kids: boys and girls, ~ages 12-13, facing a male adult. They are holding 10 funny items in their hands, for example, a rake, a silly hat, a stuffed animal, a bike helmet, a pan from the kitchen, etc. They are excited, noisy, and talking among themselves about the people they met on the Scavenger Hunt as the lights come up. Then, all quiet down as one child quiets the group and speaks to the adult.]

Child Spokesperson: [Facing the group] Alright. Be quiet! Shhh!! [Once he or she can be heard, he or she turns around and speaks to the adult] We're done! We found all the items on the list for the Scavenger Hunt! [With eager anticipation,] Did we win?!

Male Adult: Did you find all 10 items?

Child Spokesperson: Yes! We found them all! *We're finished!*

Male Adult: [Holding a paper, listing the needed items] Okay, I see the rake, and the pan, and the silly hat. Did you find the bike helmet?

Group: Yes! [A child holds up the bike helmet.]

Male Adult: Good. Good. How about the stuffed animal? [Child holds it up. Adult names all of the other five items the cast has pre-selected. When each one is called out, the child carrying it holds up the object.] Super! That's all ten! But, did you try for any of the bonus points?

Group: [With excitement] Yes! We did them both!

Male Adult: Did you say The Pledge of Allegiance to our neighbor, Ms. Jones, and then get her signature?

Group: Yes!

[Another child holds up a piece of paper with Ms. Jones's signature on it and passes it forward for the adult to examine.]

Male Adult: Very good, again! The first group back did both the bonus points but couldn't find anyone with a silly hat. Now, here's the step that the second group got wrong. Using someone's cell phone, did you take a video of *two* people in your group, not just one, singing a verse of "Old McDonald Had a Farm" to someone at the deli down the street?

Child Spokesperson: Yes! Here it is. [Child gets out his/her phone and shows him the video.]

[If desired, an ambitious person could videotape two of the kids doing this ahead of time (in costume) in a real deli and then show it to the audience at this point, on the overhead screen, for a laugh. Be sure the lighting in the video is bright enough for the audience to see it well and that the video is very short.]

Male Adult: Alright! Well done, then! Yes, you've won the scavenger hunt! [Group cheers, then quiets down as he continues.] Congratulations! You were the only group to *complete all the steps perfectly... you finished exactly according to the instructions.*

[Characters freeze in place, and the spotlight goes out. BO-1: "Scavenger Hunt" characters stay on stage and remain frozen until directed otherwise in Scene 6. "Champions" actors take their place on stage. BO-2: "Scavenger Hunt" characters leave the stage, and "Champions" actors take their place.]

SCENE 3: Champions

[See blocking instructions on pages 4-5 for placement of new characters on the stage. Two teens (16-18), teammates, wearing matching team uniforms, with props from their sport and preferably, a trophy in hand—enter the stage and stop as the spotlight comes up. The script uses terms linked to football. However, directors have the author’s permission to change the underlined words in the dialogue of this scene to whatever terms are appropriate to the sport represented by the athletes’ uniforms—basketball, softball, tennis, soccer, track, etc. There is flexibility according to whatever two matching uniforms are available that also fit the two athlete actors.]

Athlete #1: What a game!! [or, match, race, track meet, etc.]

Athlete #2: That was crazy! I thought we would lose for sure.

Athlete #1: Could you believe that crowd? You could feel the anger of the fans on the opposing team. It was creepy. Their home field advantage is brutal! Attendance was sooo unbalanced in their favor.

Athlete #2: Even the referee was against us!

Athlete #1: Yeah, really!!

Athlete #2: That third quarter penalty flag was such a bogus call. Bailey was *NOT* offside!!

Athlete #1: But, ultimately, *you* pulled it out for us. I couldn’t believe that last play. That was a great interception and touchdown return! [Laughing] *SO TOTALLY RAD!!*

Athlete #2: Thanks! I was so pumped!!

Athlete #1: Finally! After a hard season, the play-offs, and the championship, *we’re finished!* It’s all over and we came out on top!

Athlete #2: That’s right. We did it! It was tough, but we *beat all our opponents!* Even Central High! [Hugs or high fives his/her friend in celebration.]

[Characters freeze in place, and the spotlight goes out. BO-1: “Champions” characters stay on stage and remain frozen until directed otherwise in Scene 6. “Forgiven” actors and props get in position on stage. BO-2: “Champions” characters leave the stage, and “Forgiven” actors and props take their place.]

SCENE 4: Forgiven

[See blocking instructions on pages 4-5 for placement of new characters and props on the stage. As the spotlight comes up, a boy, ~age 9, is sitting in a chair at a small table, or in a soft chair with a clipboard or a lap desk. Five or six sheets of notebook paper with large writing on them are in front of him. He has a pencil in his hand. His father walks into the spotlight, facing him with a stern look on his face, puts his hands on his hips.]

Child: [Whiney voice] Dad, am I done yet? [Pause.] How many times did you say I have to write out [said slowly, with enunciation], “I - will - not - put - nails - in - the - wall - without - permission”?

Father: One hundred times. Now, how are you coming? It looks like you might be done.

Child: I am. [Child hands Father the stack of papers. He looks at them.] I wrote it out one hundred times. What’s wrong with trying to hang a picture, anyway?

Father: [He stops checking the papers.] Well, besides the fact that it wasn’t in your own bedroom, you were putting a framed picture of The Hulk *in the living room*, without my permission, right next to the picture of your Uncle Fred!

Child: So? The Hulk is really cool! Besides, Uncle Fred told me he likes The Hulk!

Father: Good for him, but this is not Uncle Fred’s house! So, tell me. What are you going to do the next time you decide you want to hang a picture in our living room?

Child: Ask permission first.

Father: Yes. That’s right, son. You can’t just go around the house putting nails in the wall, wherever you want. If Mom and I say it’s okay, then I’ll be glad to help you. But now I have to plug up the holes and repaint the wall there. So, what do you say?

Child: I’m sorry, Dad.

Father: [He leans over and gives him a hug.] Alright, I forgive you. *You're finished! And, your punishment is over.*

[Characters freeze in place, and the spotlight goes out. BO-1: "Forgiven" characters stay on stage and remain frozen until directed otherwise in Scene 6. "Jigsaw Puzzle" actors and props get in position on stage. BO-2: "Forgiven" characters and props leave the stage, and "Jigsaw Puzzle" actors and props take their place.]

SCENE 5: Jigsaw Puzzle

[See blocking instructions on pages 4-5 for placement of new characters and props on the stage. As the spotlight comes up, we see two children, between ages 10 and 13, sitting in folding chairs at a card table. An older teen walks into the spotlight and looks over their shoulders at a nearly completed jigsaw puzzle on the table.]

Teen: Hey guys, how's the jigsaw puzzle coming?

Younger Child: Not so good. We're missing some pieces!

Older Child: Yeah, I can't believe it. We were almost done. But now it looks like we're going to be short five pieces!

Teen: Oh, that's too bad!

Older Child: It's such a great picture. [He or she holds up the box top. It could be a pretty or a funny picture, shown on an overhead screen.] I really wanted to finish it today.

Teen: I wonder where those pieces went.

Younger Child: We've already searched the floor in here and in the games closet.

Teen: Hey, I bet I know where they went!

Younger Child: Where?

Teen: Remember last week... when Aunt Margaret gave you the puzzle? You opened the box at her house that day, and little cousin Julie was handling some of the puzzle pieces. I have a feeling the missing pieces fell under Aunt Margaret's couch in her family room. Or, maybe Julie dropped some pieces between the couch cushions.

Older Child: Oh yeah, I remember that. I bet you're right!

Teen: I'll give Aunt Margaret a call to ask her if we can go over there right now, so you can

look for them. I can drive you over. Eventually, you'll have all *the missing pieces*, and then your jigsaw puzzle *will finally be finished!*

Younger Child: [With both excitement and relief] All right!!

Older Child: Great idea! Thanks!

[Characters freeze in place, and the spotlight goes out.

BO-1: "Jigsaw Puzzle" characters remain on stage and remain frozen until directed otherwise in Scene 6.

BO-2: "Jigsaw Puzzle" characters and props exit the stage, and the actors from "Scavenger Hunt" enter, take their place, and freeze until directed otherwise in Scene 6.]

SCENE 6: Answer

[Read all blocking notes on pages 4-5 to fully understand the two blocking options (abbreviated “BO-1” and “BO-2”) given in this scene. Lights up on Scene 6, same setting as Scene 1. Characters unfreeze.]

Mother: You know, honey, when Jesus said, “It is finished,” he *could* have been referring to the fact that He had *accomplished all of the tasks and followed all the instructions* that His Heavenly Father had given Him. In the book of John, chapter 17 [verse 4], Jesus is near the end of His earthy life, praying to the Heavenly Father, and He says, “I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.”

[BO-1 and BO-2: A dim spotlight goes up on Scene 2: “Scavenger Hunt” actors who had been frozen in place, while dialogue in Scene 6 continues. Scene 2 characters unfreeze and pantomime talking, admiring the scavenger hunt items and silently give each other high

Teen: You mean like, He did all the miracles He was supposed to do?

Mother: He had done every miracle, healed every sickness, preached every sermon, and gone to every city, town, synagogue, home, and hill where the Father asked Him to go, including the cross! Jesus lived a perfect life, totally pleasing to the Father, and never sinned [Matt. 17:5]. He even said *every word* that the Father had asked Him to say [John 17:8]! Just like kids on a scavenger hunt, finishing a list of instructions about items to find or things to do, *Jesus had finished following the Heavenly Father’s instructions perfectly.*

[BO-1 and BO-2: Spotlight remains up on Scene 6, but goes out on Scene 2: “Scavenger Hunt” characters.]

[BO-1: Scene 2 characters leave the stage. BO-2: Scene 2 actors leave the stage to make room for Scene 3: “Champions” actors who come on stage, get in their places, and freeze until the dim spotlight comes up.]

Teen: How could anyone ever follow God’s instructions perfectly, and never sin?!?

Mother: [Slowly] Well, Jesus is God, don’t forget. That’s what the Trinity is all about. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three-in-one, all equally divine.

Teen: Oh, right! I knew that.

Mother: Jesus was the Son of God, but was also *God, the Son*. So, He’s definitely the only person who ever *could* follow God’s instructions perfectly! I certainly can’t!

[BO-1 and BO-2: A dim spotlight goes up on Scene 3: “Champions” actors who are frozen in place, while dialogue in Scene 6 continues. Scene 3 athletes unfreeze and silently “chat,” pat one another on the back, laugh, pantomime replays, and admire their trophy.]

Teen: Do you think that another way Jesus meant, “It is finished” was related to *overcoming his opponents*, like the Pharisees? Or, maybe even fighting against Satan? Ya’ know, just like when athletes compete against their opponents, in order to win a championship, Jesus knew He *had to go* to the cross—so He could sort of “win” [make air-quotes gesture with hands] against the Pharisees, Satan, and even death itself, because He didn’t stay dead!

Mother: Yes! Of course, Jesus’ death *seemed like a defeat* to his disciples at first, but really, it was a *victory* for all of humanity! The fact that He came back to life again, after being dead for three days, shows He is even stronger than death! So, Jesus is able to offer the promise of eternal life to everyone who believes in Him.

[BO-1 and BO-2: Lights remain up on Scene 6, but go out on Scene 3: “Champions” characters.]

BO-1: Scene 3 characters leave the stage.

BO-2: Scene 3 characters leave the stage to make room for Scene 4: “Forgiven” characters to come on stage, get in their places, and freeze until the spotlight comes up.]

Mother: Little did Satan know, that getting Jesus killed actually provided the means by which Jesus purchased our salvation, paying for it in full, with His blood when He died on the cross.

[Teen slides off the bed and walks around the room a little while saying her lines, ending up sitting or leaning on the edge of the bed with her feet on the floor.]

Teen: Yeah, I guess that’s another meaning for, “It is finished.” He was *finished taking our punishment* for us; done paying for our sins. Jesus went *willingly* to the cross, so He could take the punishment that we all deserve, and make a relationship with God possible.

Mother: Yes, absolutely! Since He didn’t have any of His *own sins* to pay for, that’s what makes Him qualified to take our place and pay for *our sins*.

[BO-1 and BO-2: A dim spotlight goes up on Scene 4: “Forgiven” actors, who are frozen in place, while Scene 6 dialogue continues. Scene 4 father and son unfreeze and silently “talk” about a new place for the Hulk picture. The father is holding the papers the son had written. The son carries the framed Hulk picture.]

Mother: You are so right. God is just. He can’t just *overlook* sin, as if it’s no big deal! Sin has to be paid for with the blood of a perfect sacrifice. In fact, the Bible says that “without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness” [Hebrews 9:22]. Before Jesus came to earth, the Jewish people would sacrifice perfect lambs and goats at the Temple in Jerusalem, to die in their place and pay for their sins. But now, Jesus’

death takes the place of those lamb sacrifices. And even though Jesus hadn't done anything to *deserve* being punished, He became our substitute. That's why Jesus is called "The *Lamb* of God."

Teen: That's so cool! [Suddenly embarrassed,] I'm mean, it's *not* cool that Jesus had to die. What is cool is the symbolism behind *why* He is called "The Lamb of God." [Mother nods.]

[BO-1 and BO-2: Lights remain up on Scene 6, but go out on Scene 4: "Forgiven" characters.

BO-1: Scene 4 actors leave the stage.

BO-2: Scene 4 actors leave the stage to make room for Scene 5: "Jigsaw Puzzle" actors to come on stage, get in their places, and freeze until the spotlight comes up.]

Teen: So, for everyone who believes in Jesus, His sacrifice not only pays for their sins, but also gives them forgiveness and a permanent place in God's family!

[Mother walks around the room a little while saying the following lines, ending up sitting on or leaning on the edge of the bed with her feet on the floor, next to her daughter, who is still sitting on, or leaning against the bed.]

Mother: It's great that you understand so much about Jesus already, at your age! I went to church with my family a few times as a young person, but my parents *never* talked about spiritual things at home. As a result, I was clueless, and super afraid of what would happen to me when I died. I really didn't understand why Jesus died, or why I needed a Savior, until I was an adult, in my 30s. For me, gaining *understanding* about those things was the key to my believing in Jesus.

Teen: Well, I'm glad you *finally did* understand, so you could explain it all to me!

Mother: Me too!

Teen: I don't really know when I *first* started to understand things about Jesus, or how old I was when I *first* really believed in Him. But... I just know that I do!

Mother: Yes, and that's totally fine. You don't have to know the exact day when you first believed. Your experience in coming to believe in Christ personally is different from mine since you grew up hearing a lot about Jesus both at church and at home. [Teen nods in agreement.]

So, I think we've come up with... at least *four reasons* why Jesus may have said, "It is finished." [Reviewing and counting out loud, on her fingers] One: Jesus was finished with His physical, earthly life. Two: He had finished all the tasks and instructions the Father had given Him to do while He was on earth. Three...

Teen: [Interrupting] He was finished fighting against his enemies and against Satan!

Mother: Right. Four: Sin has to be punished. Jesus suffered a horrible death, *not for His own sins—He didn't have any!* Rather, He willingly died in order to finish paying the required penalty for *our sins*: which is the shedding of blood from a perfect, innocent substitute.

Teen: Wow. I guess I had already heard all that, but I hadn't associated it with Jesus saying, "It is finished," on the cross!

[Pause in dialogue as both women are thinking about this. Then, teen climbs back on top of the bed and sits cross legged. Mom is free to stay near or walk around.]

Teen: Mom, I think another thing that happened when Jesus finished his life is that He was making a way for God *to be with us* all the time. The youth pastor at church is always saying that for believers, as we pray and confess our sins, God guides our lives. I mean, isn't that why He sent the Holy Spirit? To live in us and guide us? It's not that we deserve that or have earned it; but when we believe in Jesus we become part of God's family.

Mother: Oh yes! That's a great point! Jesus didn't want to leave His children without a helper and comforter. So, when Jesus left earth to go back to Heaven, the Holy Spirit came down to earth. God loves us so much!

Teen: Absolutely!

Mother: So, that's reason number five... Oh, and I just thought of a *sixth* reason! [Teen looks surprised.] He was *finished fulfilling the prophecies* about his *first* coming to earth! You know, like prophecies about being born in Bethlehem [Matt. 2:1-12], born of a virgin [Isa. 7:14], a descendant of King David [Matt. 1:1], dying in our place, for our sins [Isa. 53:5-6], and so on. But, we can't forget, He's coming back again! [Teen nods in agreement], After He rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven, His disciples were told that Jesus would return to earth again, in the same way that He left [Acts 1:10-11]. He hasn't fulfilled the prophecies about His *second* coming to earth yet.

[BO-1 and BO-2: A dim spotlight goes up on Scene 5: "Jigsaw Puzzle" actors, who are frozen in place, while the dialogue in Scene 6 continues. "Jigsaw Puzzle" actors unfreeze and pantomime actions as if they are preparing to go to the Aunt's house. One of the two younger children is holding the puzzle box top with the picture on it. The teen now holds a purse, sunglasses, and a car key. (BO-2 could add light jackets for all three.) After a brief time of "talking," she directs the younger two to follow her off stage, as if they are going to the car. Their dim spotlight follows them off stage and then goes out. Mother and Teen have been continuing their dialogue below while Scene 5 actors have been doing their pantomime and leaving from the stage.]

Teen: You mean like the prophecies about Jesus being a King [Zech. 9:9, John 18:33-37], not just a servant?

Mother: Yes, that's exactly right! However, His time to rule as a king on earth had not yet come.

Teen: But, isn't there something in the Bible about Him ruling over a kingdom on earth?

Mother: Yep, good for you! [She walks over to her daughter and affectionately places her hand on Teen's shoulder for a bit.] That's another "unfinished" prophecy [Rev. chapters 20-22]. Just like a jigsaw puzzle with a few missing pieces, there is *more* to the picture of Jesus' life and mission than what the world has seen thus far. At just the right time, known only to God, those additional pieces of the puzzle will show up and be added to the picture of His life. All of the remaining prophecies about Jesus' *second* coming to earth will be fulfilled. Then, the completed "puzzle" will be *totally finished* and amazing!

Teen: Wow. I'm *really looking forward to* going to church tomorrow and celebrating Easter, after having talked about all this! His life and death finished so many things. But, Jesus didn't stay dead! The fact that Jesus came back alive again after three days is just so great! It shows us that Jesus' suffering and death on the cross were all worth it. Thanks for talking, Mom!

Mother: You're very welcome. I enjoyed it! Jesus' resurrection proves that we can trust God to take care of our *own* lives after we die! Jesus said *anyone who believes in Him*, "will live, even though they die." [John 11:25] How awesome is that?! Well, goodnight, Honey. [She gives her daughter a hug or a kiss goodnight.] I could go on, but I'd better let you get ready for bed. Love you!

Teen: Goodnight. I love you, too, Mom!

[BO-1 and BO-2: Lights go down on Scene 6: "Answer" actors. The curtain goes down, and/or the actors leave the stage once it's dark. All actors from Scenes 2-5 should have already left the stage.]

[Two scripture passages are shown on an overhead screen, one at a time. Be sure the font is large enough for people to read them from the back of the seating area, even if it requires multiple slides. You can also have someone reading the Scriptures aloud, from off stage, with a microphone, as they are shown, if desired.

The first set of Scripture slides are:]

They (Jesus' disciples) were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Acts 1:10–11 (NIV)

[The second set of Scripture slides are:]

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)

[After the lights go down on Scene 6, and after the Scripture slides are shown, this would be a good time to show a short but *clear* salvation testimony, either in person or on a video like the one I made several years ago, which you are welcome to use. See link to gratefulsue's testimony at: <https://vimeo.com/38506039>]

[This can be followed by a 10-15-minute message which gives people an opportunity to trust in Christ personally. At the end of the presentation, it is recommended to either hand out follow-up cards or have a tear-off portion on the bulletin for attenders to fill out with

their honest comments about the play/program and contact information, if they indicate on the tear-off panel that they would like to be followed up. You can also offer to have their questions about salvation in Christ answered by trained volunteers (indicated by a nametag, ribbon, or some other visible identifying mark) who can meet them at the front of the auditorium after the presentation or church service.]