

GOD IS . . . OUR LEADER

By Debbie Ciampoli
November 16, 1997

CHARACTERS - PEOPLE:

KID #1
KID #2
LAST KID
2-3 EXTRA KIDS
MOSES
VOICE OF GOD
PHARAOH
ISRAELITE #1
ISRAELITE #2
TOUGH KID

CHARACTERS - PUPPETS:

KID PUPPET #1
KID PUPPET #2
NIV

PROPS:

MOSES' STAFF
BURNING BUSH
SANDALS
PALACE SETTING
THRONE
"RED SEA"
BLUE FABRIC
FISH FABRIC
PANELS
PHARAOH'S ROBE
"TOUGH KID" ATTIRE
MOSES' ROBE
ISRAELITE'S ATTIRE
PUPPET STAGE

SPECIAL EFFECTS:

OCEAN NOISE

GOD IS . . . OUR LEADER

LIGHT CUE - UP ON SINGERS

OPENING SONG

LIGHT CUE - DOWN ON SINGERS, UP ON STAGE LEFT

Two kids enter stage left.

KID #1: HEY, I KNOW THIS REALLY FUN GAME. WANNA PLAY?

KID #2: SURE, WHY NOT?

KID #1: IT'S CALLED "FOLLOW THE LEADER" AND YOU FOLLOW ME AND DO EVERYTHING I DO, OKAY?

KID #2: OKAY!

KID #1: *(begins skipping around the stage, singing. followed by kid #2)* WE'RE FOLLOWING THE LEADER, THE LEADER THE LEADER; WE'RE FOLLOWING THE LEADER, WHEREVER HE MAY GO!

More kids enter stage left.

GROUP OF KIDS: HEY, WE WANNA PLAY!

KID #1: SURE, COME ON!

Puppets come up & watch kids. Group continues skipping around stage.

PUPPET #1: *(to puppet #2)* HEY, WHAT'S GOIN ON?

PUPPET #2: I DON'T KNOW. BUT . . . *(sings)* THEY'RE FOLLOWING THE LEADER, THE LEADER, THE LEADER . . .

PUPPET #1: WHO IS THE LEADER, ANYWAY?

PUPPET #2: I DON'T KNOW, BUT HE'S UP THERE SOMEWHERE! COME ON, LET'S GO WATCH!

Kids end up at the front of the stage by end of puppet stage where all jump off and fall to the ground. They lay there motionless. The last kid comes up to the edge and teeters there. Puppets come up beside him and try and convince him to jump.

GOD IS . . . OUR LEADER

PUPPET #1: WHAT ARE YOU WAITIN FOR? JUMP!

LAST KID: DON'T PUSH ME! I'M NOT SURE I WANNA PLAY ANYMORE.

PUPPET #2: BUT YOU HAVE TO . . . YOU'RE *(begins to sing)* "FOLLOWING THE LEADER, THE LEADER, THE LEADER; FOLLOWING THE LEADER, WHEREVER HE MAY GO!" . . . AND HE JUST WENT DOWN THERE!
(points at bottom of stage)

LAST KID: WELL, WHAT MADE HIM THE LEADER ANYWAY?

PUPPET #1 *(laughing)* IT SURE WASN'T HIS BRAINS. HE'S LAYIN AT THE BOTTOM OF A DITCH SOMEWHERE!

LAST KID: *(pondering)* THERE **MUST** BE A **REAL** LEADER SOMEWHERE! SOMEONE WHO'LL GUIDE US AND LEAD US THE RIGHT WAY. BUT HOW WILL WE KNOW HIM?

Kids & puppets exit during song.

LIGHT CUE - DOWN ON LEFT , UP ON SINGERS
--

CUE SONG - WE NEED A SHEPHERD

WORSHIP LEADER: *(Encourages the kids to watch the story to find the answer)*

LIGHT CUE - DOWN ON SINGERS, UP ON PORTABLE

MOSES: *(strolls in whistling, carrying his stick and notices burning bush)* WHOA! WHAT'S WITH THE BUSH? I SEE FLAMES, BUT . . . BUT IT'S NOT BURNING UP!

VOICE OF GOD: MOSES! MOSES!

MOSES: *(looking around for someone. says to himself in disbelief)* YOU TALKIN TO ME? *(still looking around)* MOSES, MY MAN, YOU'VE BEEN OUT IN THE SUN TOOOOOOO LONG!

VOICE OF GOD: MOSES, TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES FOR YOU ARE STANDING ON HOLY GROUND.

MOSES: *(obeys and begins taking off sandals)* MOSES, YOU'RE NUTS! THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING. A BUSH THAT DOESN'T BURN UP, A VOICE FROM NOWHERE.*(shakes head)*MAYBE I ATE SOME BAD GOAT MEAT.

VOICE OF GOD: MOSES, I HAVE SEEN THE MISERY OF MY PEOPLE, AND I

GOD IS . . . OUR LEADER

WANT YOU TO LEAD THEM OUT OF EGYPT. GO AND TELL PHARAOH TO RELEASE THEM.

MOSES: BUT, WHO AM I LORD? AND WHY WOULD PHARAOH LISTEN TO ME?

VOICE OF GOD: I WILL LEAD YOU, MOSES. AND THROUGH ME YOU WILL BECOME A GREAT LEADER. BUT PHARAOH WILL NOT LET YOU GO UNLESS A MIGHTY HAND COMPELS HIM. SO I WILL STRETCH OUT MY HAND AND STRIKE THE EGYPTIANS. AFTER THAT, HE WILL LET YOU GO.

MOSES: COOL! I WILL DO AS YOU SAY, LORD . . . (*walks off mumbling to himself*) THIS IS **SO** WEIRD! A BURNING BUSH, A STRANGE VOICE, ASKING **ME** OF ALL PEOPLE . . .

LIGHT CUE - DOWN ON PORTABLE , UP ON SINGERS

CUE SONG - GOD IS FAITHFUL

LIGHT CUE - DOWN ON SINGERS, UP ON STAGE RIGHT

Moses enters Pharaohs palace.

PHARAOH: WHO ARE YOU AND WHY ARE YOU BOTHERING ME?

MOSES: I AM MOSES, AND I DELIVER A MESSAGE FROM THE GOD OF THE HEBREWS. YOU ARE TO LET GOD'S PEOPLE GO SO THAT THEY MAY WORSHIP HIM.

PHARAOH: OH REALLY! AND GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON WHY I OUGHT TO DO THIS THING THAT YOU HAVE ASKED.

MOSES: IF YOU DO NOT RELEASE THEM, TERRIBLE PLAGUES WILL COME UPON THE LAND.

PHARAOH: I'M TREMBLING WITH FEAR! DO YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT YOU (*looks nastily at Moses*) ARE CAPABLE OF DOING ME ANY HARM?

MOSES: NOT I, BUT THE GOD WHOM I SERVE.

PHARAOH: YOU REALLY ARE ONE STRAW SHORT OF A FULL HAYSTACK. AWAY WITH YOU!

GOD IS . . . OUR LEADER

MOSES: YOU HAVE SEALED YOUR FATE. I HOPE YOU LIKE FROGS, GNATS, FLIES, AND LOCUSTS! *(turns away from Pharaoh)*

PHARAOH: WHAT NONSENSE ARE YOU TALKING?

MOSES: *(calls back as he is leaving)* YOU'LL BE SORRY!

LIGHT CUE - DOWN ON STAGE RIGHT , UP ON SINGERS

CUE SONG - PHARAOH, PHARAOH

LIGHT CUE - DOWN ON SINGERS, UP ON PORTABLE
& AMBER ON CENTER STAGE

Group of Israelites , led by Moses, enter down center aisle from back of room. They talk as they walk.

ISRAELITE #1: MOSES, PHARAOH'S ARMY IS RIGHT BEHIND US. THEY SURELY MEAN TO KILL US!

ISRAELITE #2: WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO US, BRINGING US OUT HERE? WERE THERE NO GRAVES IN EGYPT THAT YOU BROUGHT US TO THE DESERT TO DIE?

ISRAELITE #1: MOSES, YOU ARE OUR LEADER. DO SOMETHING!

MOSES: DO NOT BE AFRAID. STAND FIRM AND YOU WILL SEE THE DELIVERANCE OF THE LORD. THE EGYPTIANS YOU SEE TODAY YOU WILL NEVER SEE AGAIN.

Group walks up on stage and stands in front of "Red Sea".

ISRAELITE #2: NOW WHAT?

ISRAELITE #1: HOW WILL WE EVER GET ACROSS SO LARGE A BODY OF WATER?

ISRAELITE #1 & #2 together: WE'RE DOOMED!

MOSES: THE LORD WILL HELP US. JUST BE STILL. *(Moses begins praying)*

VOICE OF GOD: WHY ARE YOU CRYING OUT TO ME? MOVE ON! RAISE YOUR HAND OVER THE SEA TO DIVIDE THE WATER AND WALK THROUGH ON DRY LAND.

GOD IS . . . OUR LEADER

Moses raises his hand - the “water” divides & everyone walks through.

VOICE OF GOD: STRETCH YOUR HAND OVER THE SEA SO THAT THE WATERS MAY FLOW AGAIN.

The “water” closes.

ISRAELITES TOGETHER: PRAISE GOD! (*cheer & praise God*)

LIGHT CUE - LIGHTS 1/2 DOWN CENTER, UP STAGE LEFT

LAST KID: (*enters and begins talking to kid puppet #1 & #2.*) NOW THERE'S SOMEONE I WOULDN'T MIND FOLLOWING. HE WOULDN'T PLUNGE US OFF A CLIFF!

PUPPET #1: BUT YOU MISSED THE POINT OF THE STORY!

PUPPET #2: MOSES WAS ONLY A GREAT LEADER BECAUSE HE WAS FOLLOWING GOD! I MAY HAVE COTTON FOR BRAINS, BUT EVEN I KNEW THAT!

LAST KID: SO JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONE LEADER WE SHOULD ALWAYS FOLLOW. NOW I GOT IT!

PUPPETS #1 AND #2: (*look at one another*) DUHHH!

TOUGH KID: (*struts onto stage, stands in front of kids and puppets*) HEY, WHAT'S GOIN' ON? I'M BAD BILLY FROM BARSTOW AND I'M NEW TO THIS HERE TOWN! WHO'S YOUR LEADER HERE?

LAST KID: (*looks at audience and winks noticeably. He puts his arm around tough kid and begins to lead him away*) I WOULD BE HAPPY TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MY LEADER. HIS NAME IS JESUS CHRIST. LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT HIM . . . (*they exit stage right*)

LIGHT CUE - UP ON SINGERS

GOD IS . . . OUR LEADER

WORSHIP LEADER: *(comments and calls NIV up)*

NIV: THE SCRIPTURE FOR TODAY IS FOUND IN EXODUS, THE SAME BOOK
WHERE WE LEARNED ABOUT MOSES AND THE RED SEA.

REPEAT AFTER ME:

IN YOUR UNFAILING LOVE
YOU WILL LEAD THE PEOPLE
YOU HAVE REDEEMED.

EXODUS 15:13

CLOSING PRAYER

CUE SONG - I AM YOUR SHEPHERD
