

The Beginnings of Christianity

Characters required:

Scene 1: Peter, John, Lame person, & chorus of children

Scene 2: Peter, John, 2 Soldiers & 3 narrators

Scene 3: Peter, John, High Priest, 3 Jewish officials, Gamaliel, 3 narrators

Scene 1 – On the way to the Temple to worship God

The chorus will be to one side whilst the action will take place on the other side and in the middle.

Chorus: Peter and John went to pray *Peter & John put hands together*
They met a lame man on the way *Lame man on his mat*
He asked for alms
And held out his palms *Lame man gestures to Peter & John*
And this is what Peter did say:

Peter: Silver and gold have I none,
But such as I have give I thee.
In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,
Rise up and walk!

Chorus: He went walking and leaping and praising God.
Lame man responds to the words
He went walking and leaping and praising God
He went walking and leaping and praising God

Scene 2 – Peter and John’s message and action cause a mixed reaction

Peter and John are to one side whilst the narrators are to the other side.

Narrator 1: The Jewish authorities did not like what was happening.

Narrator 2: Peter and John were telling people to change their ways and believe in Jesus.

Narrator 3: Many people were starting to believe in Jesus especially after seeing the lame man walk

Narrator 2: Peter and John told the crowd that had gathered that it was in the name of Jesus Christ that the lame man was walking and running around, and they must follow by put their faith in him.

Narrator 1: The Jewish authorities decided to have Peter and John arrested and put in gaol.

Peter and John are arrested and put in prison

Scene 3 – Before the Jewish Authorities

The scene is set with the High Priest on his throne with others around including Gamaliel. Peter and John are brought in to stand before the High Priest. The narrators will be apart from this scene.

Narrator 2: Peter and John are brought before the Jewish Court

High Priest: You must not teach people about this man Jesus – we forbid it.

Peter and John: Should we obey you rather than God?

High Priest: Yes, you should!

Peter and John: We must obey God rather than men.

Narrator 1: The Jewish authorities were furious and wanted to put Peter and John to death.

Narrator 3: Gamaliel asked leave to speak in private with the Jewish Court

Narrator 2: Peter and John were taken back to prison

Gamaliel: I advise you to leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose and work is of man then it will fail, but if it is of God, you will not be able to stop their work, you will only find yourselves fighting against God.

Narrator 1: The Jewish leaders were persuaded by this argument.

Narrator 2: They let Peter and John go free after a good flogging

Narrator 3: Peter and John continued to obey God and went about telling people about Jesus.