

UPWARD BOUND

(A Collection of Puppet Skits)

By Iris Gray Dowling

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DEDICATION OR SPECIAL THANKS

I'd like to thank the Lord for inspiring ideas and placing me in churches where my work could be used for the furtherance of His gospel. Beulah Baptist Church of Russelville, Pennsylvania, stands as one of these encouraging churches. Thanks to the listening children and teen helpers, especially, Alisha Hunter and her dummy, Charlie, who gave the skits their debut. Thanks to my grandchildren, Charity, Ami, and Jonathan Swymer, for reading and critiquing with a kid's point of view. Lastly, thanks to all who share my burden to reach children for Christ through drama techniques. Please use these skits to help reach that goal.

The Playwright

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MAJOR DECISION

Charlie learns the most important decision is accepting Jesus as Saviour. Then all other decisions should please God.

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

Alisha and Charlie tell how God used Joseph to interpret dreams and prepare for His people.

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU HEAR

The purpose is to show we should follow God and seek to please Him in all we see, hear, do, and say.

SHAWN'S MISSIONARY WORK

Shawn earns money for a missionary project. His friend, Eric, criticizes his dedication, but finally becomes convinced of his need to change.

LOST AND FOUND

Douglas, who is upset because his best friend moved to Brazil, doesn't want to make new friends. He's forced to meet Matt, who had an accident near his house. Finally, Douglas likes having two friends.

THE IMPORTANT BIRTHDAY PRESENTS

Ashley thinks her birthday and the presents she wants are more important than anything. She learns a second birthday with eternal gifts is better.

A WISE DECISION.

Ami and Betty are threatened with separation because Betty's family plans to buy a shore house. Ami tells the Bible story in Matthew 7:24-29, which helps her come to know the Lord. After staying one night, her family decides not to buy the house.

THE JOURNEY HOME

Onesimus, who robbed his master, travels home to ask forgiveness. Now that he is a believer, he desires to get right with God and his master, Philemon. (Based on the book of Philemon.)

LIFE'S CONNECTION

After talking with her friend, Kristin, and hearing about Nicodemus, Lori realizes what she misses by not going to church. (Based on John 3.)

A COWARD—NOT ME

Jamie, afraid to be friendly with a Chinese boy because of his prejudiced friends, changed to please God.

THE SPECIAL CHRISTMAS LIGHT

On Christmas Eve, Kevin and Kim stay with Gramps, who discusses the stars with them. They learn about the special purpose and meaning of the Christmas star.

MAJOR DECISION

SUMMARY: Charlie learns the most important decision is accepting Jesus as Saviour. Then all our other decisions should please God, also.

PRODUCTION NOTES: Written for ventriloquist and puppet, or two puppets talking with each other.

SETTING: In a Sunday school or church room.

CHARACTERS

ALISHA: Ventriloquist

CHARLIE: The humanoid puppet

(AT RISE: ALISHA is talking to the BOYS and GIRLS.)

ALISHA: Boys and girls, Charlie wants to come today, but he has a problem.

BOYS AND GIRLS: What's wrong?

ALISHA: I can't get him in the room. *(Pause; acts worried)* Maybe he'll come in if you shut your eyes. *(Whispers)* He has a big blister and he thinks you'll laugh at him. Will you shut your eyes, boys and girls?

BOYS AND GIRLS: Sure. *(THEY close their eyes. ALISHA goes to get CHARLIE, who carries his big sunglasses.)*

CHARLIE: *(While entering)* Oh, no, let me go. They'll stare at me.

ALISHA: No, Charlie, they won't.

CHARLIE: *(Leans head on HER shoulder)* I'm scared.

ALISHA: Why? They want you to come. *(Pause; tries to turn CHARLIE'S head toward the kids)* Are you ready for me to tell them to open their eyes?

CHARLIE: No! *(Pause as CHARLIE puts on big sunglasses to hide his face)*

ALISHA: Charlie, you're covering your eyes, not your mouth.

CHARLIE: Oh! *(Pause)* I can't see too well.

ALISHA: But we can see you very well. Children, you may open your eyes now.

CHARLIE: I'm stupid! (*Takes glasses off*)

ALISHA: Stupid is not a good word to call yourself or anyone else, Charlie.

CHARLIE: Well, sometimes I'm stupid!

ALISHA: No, Charlie. Sometimes we just make poor decisions.

CHARLIE: Poor decisions, huh?

ALISHA: Right. Every day we have to make decisions.

CHARLIE: Like, I didn't want to come to church this morning?

ALISHA: Yes, Charlie. But you decided to come, right?

CHARLIE: Yeah. I don't like making decisions.

ALISHA: Why?

CHARLIE: I'm afraid I'll make the wrong one.

ALISHA: Just remember, there's one decision that can't be wrong.

CHARLIE: What's that?

ALISHA: Asking Jesus to be your Savior.

CHARLIE: But I'm only a puppet.

ALISHA: I know, Charlie, but God didn't make boys and girls like puppets.

CHARLIE: What do you mean?

ALISHA: Each boy and girl needs to decide to trust Jesus as their Savior.

CHARLIE: Oh! So each one needs to make that most important decision.

ALISHA: Yes, Charlie. And after that, we make other decisions which please God.

CHARLIE: How do we know what pleases God?

ALISHA: We read God's Word to find out.

CHARLIE: God tells people how to make decisions in the Bible?

ALISHA: Right, but many people decide not to read the Bible every day.

CHARLIE: That seems so easy. Why?

ALISHA: Lots of reasons. People get too busy. They come home from school or work and sit in front of the TV.

End of Freeview

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