

# **THE WORD: SOMETHING TO CHEW ON**

**By Lisa Roth**

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## **DEDICATION**

*I want to thank my family and friends for their support and love. A special thank you to imaginative and insightful teachers. For the Glory of God we endeavor.*

*The Playwright  
Lisa Roth*

## **STORY OF THE PLAY**

When is doing homework fun? Two bookworms, Herman and Digger, take the bite out of a book report assignment for frustrated and bored Christopher. The Word of God comes to life as Biblical figures enter Christopher's bedroom through a life-sized "Holy Bible." These historians tell their story with humor intermixed with the witty bickering of the lovable Bookworms. You'll enjoy a new look at your favorite Bible heroes and heroines, such as the bravery of Joseph as he is sold into slavery by his spiteful brothers or the adventure of Moses and the hapless Israelites at the parting of the Red Sea. Each story is exciting to relive through Christopher's dream.

The Bookworms help Christopher discover the Bible as the best source for an exciting book report as they chew their way towards the truth, the Word of God.

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(10 m, 5 f, 13 flex, extras, doubling possible)*

**CHRISTOPHER**...10 to 13 years old, must write a book report

**DIGGER**...An intellectual bookworm

**HERMAN**...Another, but more talkative than Digger

**JOSEPH**...Sold into a caravan by his brothers

**BROTHER 1**...Wants to kill Joseph

**BROTHER 2**...Another

**BROTHER 4**...Another

**BROTHER 3 (REUBEN)**...Argues to save Joseph's life

**PHARAOH**...Wants Joseph to save all from famine

**GUARD**...Pharaoh's guard

**EXTRAS**...Starving people

**MOSES**...Parts the Red Sea to save his people

**ISRAELITE 1**...Following Moses

**ISRAELITE 2**...Another

**ISRAELITE 3**...Another

**ISRAELITE 4**...Another

**CHEERLEADER 1**...Cheers Joshua and army

**CHEERLEADER 2**...Another

**CHEERLEADER 3**...Another

**JOSHUA**...Takes Jericho according to God's plan

**SPY**...Helps Joshua

**ISRAELITE**...Also helps Joshua

**NAOMI**...A kind mother-in-law

**RUTH**...A devoted daughter-in-law

**BOAZ**...Marries Ruth

**PAUL**...Used to persecute, now a prisoner himself

**PRISONER**...On ship with Paul

**CENTURION 1**...Guard on ship

**CENTURION 2**...Another

## **CASTING**

This play was written for middle school students. While the named Biblical heroes such as Joseph, Moses, Joshua, and others should be played by boys, the unnamed roles such as guards, centurions and other traditionally male roles, can be played by girls. The roles of Christopher, Digger and Herman can also be played by girls.

## **SETTING**

Christopher's bedroom with a desk, chair, and bookshelf SL. Books are scattered on desk and floor around desk. Some are open. Next to desk is a crate on its side filled with kid items of interest for a 10 to 13-year-old boy or girl. This will be used as a chair. A backdrop is covered with posters. SR is a door painted as a window. Real curtains hang from top of door. The inside of the door is painted with the words "Holy Bible" in large, gold letters. A white sheet or curtain hangs in the doorway to indicate a page of the Bible. This will shield backstage actors.

## **PROPS**

Several books, colorful coat, bag of coins, plain garment, rich-looking clothes, staff, Bible, handkerchief, cardboard cut-out of a ship.

## **THE WORD: SOMETHING TO CHEW ON**

*(AT RISE: CHRISTOPHER enters calling offstage.)*

CHRISTOPHER: I'm not hungry, Mom! I had dinner at Jimmy's house. His mom made her famous fire siren tacos. I've had enough. *(Speaking to HIMSELF.)* I love those spicy tacos. Eating a grilled cheese sandwich now would be too boring! *(HE slumps down in the chair. Flips through some books.)* Just like these books. Boring! *(Closes a book with each boring.)* Boring! These are all boring. I have until Friday to write an outline for a book report. Give me a break! Pick a book that features adventure, heroes, and bravery. My teacher won't even let us do it on a comic book! All the really cool books are already taken, like *Huck Finn* and *Moby Dick*. *(Sighs.)* I'll never have it done by Friday. *(Leans back and yawns.)* Look at this place. Mom says she's going to pack up these books for a rummage sale. Who cares, they're all boring. *(Yawns.)* I ate too much. I'm stuffed. I'll do this later. *(Falling asleep in chair, mumbling.)* Adventure, heroes...*(Snores.)*

*(Live or taped piano MUSIC of a popular hymn, such as "Amazing Grace" plays as the "window" door opens. The inside of the door reads "Holy Bible" painted in large gold letters. HERMAN and DIGGER enter and go to CS. MUSIC fades. \*Optional: Hanging from doorway is a white sheet like a page of the book. The opening words of the Bible could be written on it. This is to hide the actors waiting to enter through it.)*

DIGGER: I'll say he hasn't read these books in a long time, if ever. Just look at the unappetizing layer of dust.

HERMAN: He's too busy on the computer, watching TV, or playing Nintendo. Give me a good book to sink my teeth into any day.

CHRISTOPHER: *(Wakes up and sees DIGGER and HERMAN. HE stands and moves in front of desk.)* Oh, no! I'm dreaming about earthworms. I shouldn't have eaten all those extra spicy tacos for dinner.

DIGGER: We're not earthworms. The very idea! We're bookworms, more educated, of course.

HERMAN: It is his dream, so we must help him with his book report.

DIGGER: If we help you find a book that offers adventure...

HERMAN: *(Annoyingly taps on DIGGER'S shoulder.)* Don't forget heroes.

DIGGER: ...And bravery...

HERMAN: *(Tapping again.)* Oh, yes, bravery, and lots of courageous feats, don't forget to mention that.

DIGGER: I haven't forgotten! If we help you, will you promise not to sell a few of our favorite books?

HERMAN: *(Taps again.)* Oh, yes, please tell him not to sell the mysteries. I just love a good whodunit!

*(DIGGER glares at HERMAN to be quiet.)*

CHRISTOPHER: Why not? It's only a dream. *(Sits in chair at HIS desk.)*

DIGGER: *(Wanders over to sit on edge of desk. HERMAN sits on crate.)* Well, it's right under your nose. The Bible! It has everything you want and more. You want adventure? We have adventure! Plus, the added bonus of a great story about forgiveness. Let us present a few experts on the subject.

*(JOSEPH enters through Bible door and moves to CS. He's wearing a coat of many colors. Four of his BROTHERS enter and stand DSR.)*

JOSEPH: I had a great dream the other night. My brothers and I were in the field binding sheaves. My sheaf rose and stood upright, then my brothers' sheaves stood upright and bowed down to my sheaf. I also dreamed the sun, the moon and the eleven stars bowed down to me.

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