

EXCHANGING BURDENS

Also using similar props as Down by the Riverside, and Love Can Build a Bridge—this skit helps youth to understand how Jesus freely takes our sins and all our burdens when we ask and give them to Him.

PURPOSE/ MAIN POINT:

Bring the Good News! Scripture Reference: Romans 10:9

CHARACTERS: If more females are available than males, the parts can be switched.

Character Name: **MARGIE**

Short description of character: **A mom trying to teach her son not to carry burdens.**

Importance of the character: **Loves her son, and desires to be the best Mom she can be and teach her son about Jesus.**

Costume suggestions for character: **Plain Pants and blouse. Hair pulled up neatly.**

Character Name: **JACK**

Short description of character: **He is burdened down with life, loneliness, disappointments, and regrets.**

Importance of the character: **Trying to carry burdens himself**

Costume suggestions for character: **Plain Pants and Shirt (Too big, or too small) Socks and Sneakers. Carries a bag of burdens.**

Character Name: **TRISTON**

Short description of character: **Oldest brother to Larry and Mike, and has parents who has taught him all about Jesus.** Importance of the character: **Likes to help his Mom with his siblings.**

Costume suggestions for character: **Jeans and nice shirt. Backpack.**

Character Name: **LARRY**

Short description of character: **Middle child. Carefree, loves to sing. Loves Jesus, and loves life.**

Importance of the character: **Spreads Joy with his big smile.**

Costume suggestions for character: **Plain Pants and Shirt. Backpack.**

Character Name: **MIKE**

Short description of character: ***Youngest child. Likes to keep up with his brothers.***

Importance of the character: **Giggly and Funny.**

Costume suggestions for character: **Shirt untucked, Hair sticking up.**

SETTING:

- Description of the setting: Triston, Larry and Mike on their way to school on a chilly morning. The leaves are just turning color, and fall is in the air. It's fun to walk this path because there are a lot of trees, and you can even catch the leaves when they fall - if you try!

PROPS LIST:

- Three bookbags
- Silk leaves
- Large sack (Large trash bag, large pillowcase)
- 5 - 8 Large cardboard Blocks
- Tape the burdens onto the front and back of each cardboard block. List of sins and burdens we carry: 1. Hatred 2. Greed 4. Harsh Words 5. Anger 6. Unforgiveness 7. Lying 8. Gossip
- On a large piece of paper/sign, write the following in large print:
JESUS, MAKES A WAY, EMPTY GRAVE, NO SINNER HE CAN'T SAVE, LOVE IS STRONG, GRACE IS FREE, GOOD NEWS.

PROPS TIPS AND TRICKS:

- Music download from Youtube Music "MY JESUS" The Yuns or artist of your choice.
- Fill a plastic bag with crunchy leaves, or plastic bags to create a rustling sound offstage as the characters move.
- Alternative: Shoe boxes can be used for Large Cardboard Boxes

TECHNICIAN: Flicking the lights and play the music at the right time

STAGEHANDS: Set up props on scene. Make sure Mike has the sign in his backpack written in the order listed below.

1.JESUS IS THE WAY 2. FREE GRACE 3. EMPTY GRAVE 4. GOOD NEWS

SCRIPT:

JACK: (Jack sitting at the table writing "Wasted Years" on a block when his Mom walks in) Good Morning Mom.

MARGIE: Good Morning Jack. What are you writing?

JACK: Just something! (Puts the block in his bag that is full of burdens and gets ready to leave.)

MARGIE: Jack, that sack is getting heavy with many worries! Why don't you take this backpack to school today? They were giving these new backpacks to all the kids yesterday at church. (hands him a backpack)

JACK: I can't Mom, my bag has things in it that I need to carry. If I don't carry it around, who will?

MARGIE: But Jack...

JACK: I gotta go, I am going to be late for school! (exits)

MARGIE: (Looking up) Oh Lord, help him to see that he doesn't have to carry those burdens around. I can't help him see it, but You can. Thank you, Jesus. (exits)

MIKE: (Enters, running ahead of Triston and Larry kicking the leaves on the ground)

TRISTON: Slow down Mike, wait for us!

MIKE: (Picks up leaves and throws them up in the air) Do you want to make a leaf pile when we get home from school?

LARRY: Yea, and we can jump in it.

MIKE: We could make our leaf pile so high that it feels like a big feather bed!

JACK: (Enters and walks towards kids, struggling to carry large sack on his back)

TRISTON: (Looking down picks up a leaf) That sounds like a good idea! Look at this one with bright orange and red! (Bumps into Jack)

JACK: Hey, watch where you are going!

TRISTON: I did not see you.

JACK: (sarcastically) Because you are too busy noticing these leaves instead of the people around you!

LARRY: Your right, that was our fault. I am Larry, and these are my brothers Triston and Mike. What is your name?

JACK: Finaly, someone that admits when they are wrong! My name is Jack.

TRISTON: What do you have in your sack? It looks heavy!

JACK: (Angrily) It is heavy! But what do you care! It's just stuff I have to carry around. (Continues to walk past the boys.)

LARRY: Hey, can we help you?

JACK: No, it's my mess- I have to deal with it.

TRISTON: Mess?

JACK: Yea, you know all the stuff you have done, and regret, but cant change? (Rolls his sack off his shoulder) I just have to deal with it.(One block falls out of his sack labeled "Wasted Years")

MIKE: (Picks it up) What does "wasted years" mean?

JACK: (Grabs the block from Mike) Hey kid, give that back! Wasted years, ya know, things you have done in your past! The wrong turns you have made. Each year this sack gets heavier to haul around!

MIKE: My backpack is light because of Jesus. Want to see what's in it?

JACK: Umm, sure kid.

MIKE: (Pulls out a large sheet of paper with the words in large print) **JESUS IS THE WAY, FREE GRACE, EMPTY GRAVE, GOOD NEWS**
(Reads the words out loud with the paper facing the audience.)

JACK: Okay? What does all that mean?

LARRY: All that stuff you are hauling is too heavy for anyone to bear! That is why Jesus came to **MAKE A WAY**, so we don't have to carry those burdens.

JACK: Oh really!? (Somewhat sarcastic) Well how does He "make a way?"

LARRY: Jesus died to take away all our sins - all our wrong choices that have not pleased God.

JACK: Huh?

TRISTON: All our wrong choices and sins separate us from God - which leads to death. But God gave us His Son Jesus, and Jesus takes all our sins when we admit we were wrong and ask Him to forgive us.

JACK: I can ask Jesus for forgiveness and just give Him this heavy load?

TRISTON: Yes, that's how much He loves us! When we give all our sins to Jesus, He takes them all on Himself.

JACK: Well, what does this "**FREE GRACE**" mean? (Points to the sign)

LARRY: It means we don't deserve God's Kindness and Love. We deserve death because of our sins. But Jesus died in our place, took all our wrongs, and He gave us LIFE!

MIKE: But he didn't stay dead because God rose from Him from the dead! And now His grave is empty! "**EMPTY GRAVE!**" (Holds up sign)

LARRY: Jesus' death removes all our wasted years and all our past sins! There is no sinner he can't save.

TRISTON: Now we can live with JOY because he set us free from our past!

JACK: Joy? (Humbly) I am tired of carrying all this around, but I thought this was my punishment for all the wrong decisions I have made.

LARRY: This is the "GOOD NEWS"! God says He will forgive us if we agree that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart God raised Him from the dead.

MIKE: Jesus will take our punishment and give us life!

JACK: I am ready to give all my sins and regrets to Jesus. (Dumps out the bag of burdens, bows his head) Jesus take it all - I want to live for You. (Keeps his head bowed while the first part of the song "My Jesus" is sung)

MIKE: (Stands next to Jack and puts his hand on his back while the first part of the song is sung)

TECHNICIAN: Start song "My Jesus" The Yuns (Anne Wilson cover) or artist of your choice.

LARRY and TRISTON: Sing the song "My Jesus."

JACK and MIKE: (Stand and join singing at the words "Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah Amen, Amen)

JACK: (Sing solo the words "Who would take my cross to calvary, pay the price for all my guilty, who would care that much about me.")

ALL: Join in singing the remainder of the song.