

Guide for Skits and Plays

PREP

Pray: The most important thing you will do as a leader is pray.

“The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.” Matthew 9:37-38

- Pray for each youth.
- Pray for the residents, that each will hear and see God's love for them.
- Pray for wisdom.
- Pray for parents and other leaders to help you.
- Pray about which skit/play to perform.
- Pray about the facilities and dates to visit.

Choose the Skits/Play you'll perform and determine participants.

Go to the [Skits and Plays](#) page on our website to select your play or skit/s. Beneath each title, you'll see how many actors are needed.

- Besides actors, your cast and crew can change props in between sets, build sets, or be part of the sound crew. There's a job for everyone!
- A [Sign-Up List](#) is available to get your participants and parents' contact info.

Find parents or other leaders to help.

It's helpful to recruit a parent or two to assist you. Here are a few of the ways they can help:

- Praying for the cast and crew
- Helping the kids memorize their lines (for play scripts)
- Attending practices to provide support and spiritual encouragement to the youth
- Being the sound technician
- Helping create the stage or props
- Creating flyers to invite family, friends, and neighbors
- An informational letter is prepared for you to hand out to the youth's parents. [“Notes to Parents of Young Leaders.”](#) There is a section in this letter to inform parents how they can get involved

Schedule your Practices and Performances.

For the timeline, we recommend starting your practices and calling to schedule with the activities director at least a month before your visit. This will allow plenty of time for them to add your play to the Care Facility calendar.

Plan on about 1½ hours at each Care Facility you choose to visit. (Skits may take less time, depending on how many you choose.) This allows time for the youth and residents to connect after the performance.

- It is a good idea to schedule multiple performances over a couple of weekends, during school break, or summertime.
- The more the kids visit, the easier it becomes. Personal growth happens the more we stretch ourselves out of our comfort zone, which is why doing the same program in several care facilities brings the most benefit. The kids have the most fun performing the play at two care facilities in one day, with a lunch break in between.
- Visit our [Find Care Facilities Near Me](#) page to locate local care facilities.
- Download [Contact Facility Activity Director](#) for a script on scheduling your visit.
- For the Plays: Plan for six 2-hour practices. Add the practices and performance dates to a calendar (you can find a [free calendar template online](#)), and send a copy home with every cast and crew member.

PLAN

Plan for the Sound and Stage.

Create playlists for performance day. Play the songs on your preferred streaming platform via Bluetooth® speaker. You'll need 3 playlists:

1. Before & After the Performance (See our [Now Connect](#) page "Who I Am in Jesus" section.)
2. During the Performance (For the skits and plays, use the Song Cue Sheet attached to each play to create a playlist.)
3. Mingle & Dance (See our [Now Connect](#) page for suggestions.)

Identify technical equipment needs. Besides the Bluetooth speaker, microphones are helpful because the residents likely have difficulty hearing. When you schedule your visit, you can ask the activities director if they have sound equipment you can use. However, it's always nice to have extra microphones, even if the Care Facility has sound equipment and microphones.

If you desire to invest in a speaker/microphone set, we recommend the [Behringer MPA40BT - Pro PA System](#) and the Behringer Ultralink ULM202USB Wireless USB Dual Microphone System or [Behringer ULTRALINK ULM300LAV](#).

Create a Stage. Bring your play to life by creating backdrops and using sheets and a divider to create a stage. You'll just need a few basic supplies:

- Paint
- White Flat Sheets
- Lightweight [8-Panel Room Divider](#) or a [Backdrop Stand](#).
- Large Clips for Attaching Each Scene.

Order Flowers & Create Invitations.

We recommend passing out flowers to the residents during the curtain call (when the play ends and you introduce the cast). See the [Now Connect Page](#) for a [script](#) to call a florist.

Create an invitation to hand out (either physical or digital) with info about play, dates, times, and locations. Family, friends, and neighbors are always welcome to come!

PRACTICE

Remember that you aren't just preparing the kids to perform a skit/play, but also their hearts to bring the love of Jesus to the residents.

"The King's Love for His People" was written to help prepare the hearts of the youth before their visit.

- Read a section of the story at each practice, and then ask your cast and crew the question prompts. Your time for "[The King's Love for His People](#)" story will be most impactful if done in the beginning of your rehearsal. The youth will be more focused and ready to participate before turning their focus to the script.
- Have them write their answers to the question prompts on the [King's Love Worksheet](#), and hand them to you. This will show you where they are on their faith journey with Jesus and help you connect deeper with them. It will also give you an opportunity to guide them during this time you have together.
- Give each cast and crew member a copy of the story at your last practice.
- Go to our [Equip page](#) to learn more.

Get Ready for Your First Meeting.

At the first practice, print the handouts from the [FREE Printables](#) page of our website.

Cast Handouts (Everyone needs a copy.):

- Play and Practice Schedule
- The King's Love Worksheet
- Prayer Calendar
- Notes to Parents of Young Leaders
- Minor (Youth) Photo/Video Release Form
- Costume Ideas
- Script/s

Leader Copies (For the leader/co-leader only)

- "The King's Love for His People" story
- Sign-Up Sheet (To get cast and parent contact info)

Assign the Roles.

For each play, there are several features included that will help the cast in their roles and bring the characters to life.

- **Character Detail** - This helps the youth get into their characters and gives them inspiration for creating their costumes. Encourage the kids to be creative and add to their characters. Check out our [Costume Ideas](#) free printable for inspiration.
- **Song Cue Sheet** - Helps you prepare your playlist and the technicians know when to play songs between scenes.
- **Prop List** - Makes it easy for the cast to keep the props organized.

Help the Kids Memorize Their Lines.

(Mainly for Plays, since skits require little to no memorization)

In the beginning, the kids can read their lines from the script. *Encourage the cast to not get anxious about memorizing; it will eventually come.*

Some tips to share:

- **Record themselves reciting their lines out loud.** Then listen to it several times in between practices. Focus on memorizing the first scene before moving to the next.
- **Have them write their lines out by hand.** This will increase their ability to memorize.
- **Actively recite lines.** Recite lines while engaging in a routine activity. This combines energy with memory and helps with memorization.
- **Memorize one line at a time.** Using the script, cover up everything except their line and the cue line (the line right before). Practice reading the uncovered lines and saying the line without looking.
- **Encourage them to ask for help at home.** They can ask their parents, grandparent or care giver to help them practice their lines at home.
- **Help each other.** Encourage each other and practice together. Read the other parts and quiz each other on their lines.

Spend Time on Voice and Blocking.

- **Voice** - Remind the cast to project their voices and speak clearly. You can have fun by incorporating a variety of voice exercises into each practice.
- **Blocking and Stage Geography** - Show the kids how to enter and exit the stage area. Plan where each cast member will stand, move, and act. Spread out the blocking so everyone is seen.

Prepare for Your Final Practice Before the Visit.

At your last meeting:

- Read our [Notes to Share with Youth](#) with your cast and crew. This will prepare them for interacting with the assisted living and memory care residents.

GO AND CONNECT

Connecting with the residents will be the best part of your visit – for the residents and for your group! Read our [Now Connect](#) page for suggestions on interacting with the residents, including making an invitation for them to receive Jesus as their Savior.

Plan for the Opening Song — Creation Calls.

To prepare the hearts of the residents, consider playing the song “Creation Calls” by Brian Doeksen:

- After setting up and just before your performance when everyone is ready to listen, this is the perfect song to set the stage—beckoning us to receive all that God wants to do in the time we have together.
- “Creation Calls” invites us to visualize and feel God’s amazing power of creation and brings a sense of peace and calm to the space we meet.
- The youth will also relax and be ready to deliver their lines with boldness.

Here are Some Performance Day Tips.

Reminders:

- Pray before each practice and play.
- Keep your sense of humor and have fun! Be flexible: mistakes will happen.
- Make an invitation for residents to receive Jesus as Savior (See our [Now Connect](#) Page)
 - Enjoy lunchtime in between plays.
- Give the youth an opportunity to exercise their faith by asking, “Who would like to pray before and after practices/play, or before we eat our lunch?” We have been surprised on several occasions by those who raised their hand to volunteer. God’s Spirit is moving and working in ways that will amaze you!
- Do the play or skits more than once. The youth will take their place as leaders the more you show up. Any awkwardness the youth may experience will lessen, and they begin to see hidden talents and gifts they didn’t realize were there.
- Don’t forget the Memory Care part of the facility. (Be prepared to see God moving in amazing ways!)
- Be careful not to bring too many large props. Make it easy on yourself and use Care Facility furniture. The residents will notice your love, smile, and care more than the props.
- Don’t get overwhelmed. When you feel yourself becoming overwhelmed or frustrated go back to the first bullet on this list. Pray! Jesus will guide you and give you wisdom.

- And don't be surprised if you receive several requests from both the youth and residents to come back again. Because the joy of Jesus takes on a life of its own and becomes overwhelmingly contagious!

OUR PRAYER FOR YOU

Lord, bless these leaders in their role. Give them Your love and wisdom to serve You well. Encourage them, Lord.

Open the curtain of heaven and give them eyes to see the potential in these young leaders. Give these young leaders the heart to understand You, and see how You are working in lives all around them. Give them a spirit of humility, love, and truth to bring to the residents.

Bless these leaders and their families.

We pray from Your infinite love, power, and strength that You will guide each leader in this mission to equip leaders for You—and bring You glory! In Jesus' name, Amen.

Keep It Simple Checklist

PREP	• Pray • Choose Your Skit/Play • Determine the Participants and Find Parents or Other Leaders to Help • Find a Care Facility Near You and Schedule Performances with the Activity Director • Create a Schedule with the Practices and Play/Skit Dates
PLAN	• Plan for Sound and Stage • Order Flowers (See Connect Page) • Create Invitations
RUN-THROUGH/PRACTICES	BRING ONE COPY: • “The King’s Love for His People” • Story Signup Sheet BRING A COPY FOR EACH YOUTH: • (Found in Resource Tab on Website) • Skit/Play and Practice Schedule • The King’s Love Worksheet • Prayer Calendar • Notes to Parents of Young Leaders • Minor (Youth) Photo Release Form • Script • Costume Ideas RUN-THROUGH/PRACTICE AGENDA: • Read a portion of “The King’s Love for His People” and ask the questions • Go over the “King’s Love Worksheet” • Assign Roles • Tips for Memorization (For Plays) • Tips for Voice & Blocking • Review Now Connect Page (Last meeting) • Read “Notes to Share with Youth” (Last meeting)
GO AND CONNECT See the “Now Connect” page for suggestions on how to spend the time after your performance.	• Bring flowers to give to the residents • Bring copies of “Who I Am in Jesus” to pass out to residents. (See Printables) • Review the Performance Day Tips above