

The Great Exchange Skit

Characters: Brett, Oliver, and Ashton

Props: One black and one white poster board or black and white sheets of paper.

Set-up: Have the black and white posters nearby, so they can be accessed easily during the skit.

Brett: Hi Oliver and Ashton! What's up?

Oliver: Oh, hi, Brett. We're heading to Bible study.

Ashton: Did you decide to come along this time?

Brett: I'm thinking about it. I've been thinking a lot about what you said yesterday. I can't get it out of my mind.

Oliver: Really? What did I say?

Brett: You said Jesus lived a perfect life, so He was righteous.

Ashton: Yes. Jesus never sinned His whole life.

Brett: You said when He died, He took the punishment for the sins of others. Is that right?

Oliver: That's right. He was sinless—perfect. But He took the punishment for the sins of everyone who would believe in Him so they could be forgiven. I like to call it “the great exchange.”

Brett: The “great exchange”? I'm not following.

Oliver: This might help you. Take this black poster board. *(Oliver turns and picks up the black poster board and hands it to Brett).* Imagine it's a blackboard that is attached to you at all times, and every time you sin, those sins are written on your blackboard.

Brett: *(Examining his “blackboard”)* OK. So this is my blackboard. And all my sins are written right on here for everyone to see?

Ashton: Yep. Everyone. And God! God would look at all of the sins on your blackboard, and He would have to judge you when you die!

Brett: What?! What do you mean?

Ashton: Well, Brett. God is holy, and He must judge sin. So all those sins on your blackboard will be judged. And God's judgment for sin is hell!

Brett: That sounds horrible! And a little hopeless!

Oliver: It is horrible. But it is not hopeless. Because you can also imagine that while He lived on earth, Jesus had a whiteboard with no words, and it was attached to Him. During His life He faced temptation, but He never sinned. No sins were ever written down. Jesus lived a perfect life! And all the righteous things He did were written down in gold calligraphy.

Brett: OK. So what does all this mean?

Ashton: On the Cross, God made Jesus, who knew NO sin, to become ALL the sins of ALL believers everywhere! I mean, Jesus took the sins of everybody who would ever believe in Him upon Himself. So His whiteboard—His perfect life—turned black and the number of sins listed on it would be unimaginable. Because He took the punishment for those sins.

Brett: So, Jesus is punished for my sins. And what happens to my blackboard?

Ashton: Your blackboard is completely erased.

Oliver: Do you see? If you receive Jesus, repent of your sins, and believe in His name, then your blackboard is completely erased. Because you would have accepted the free gift of forgiveness offered through Jesus Christ.

Ashton: But that's not all. Not only will your sins be forgiven because Jesus took them upon Himself, but then you get His righteousness.

Brett: What do you mean? Is this where the "great exchange" comes in?

Ashton: Yes! Jesus could only offer forgiveness because when He came to earth He didn't sin. God demands perfection. Jesus lived a perfect life! And in the great exchange, our sins go to Jesus and Jesus's perfect life goes to us! Then God sees us as blameless. God sees us as perfect!

Oliver: Think of it this way. Imagine that you look down to admire your clean blackboard, but it's gone. *(Oliver takes the black poster out of Brett's hand.)*

Ashton: Yeah, and in its place is a clean whiteboard instead. And it is Jesus's whiteboard, with all the righteous deeds of Jesus written on it! *(Ashton hands him the white poster.)*

Brett: I thought only Jesus had a whiteboard because only He was righteous.

Oliver: That's right! But when we repent and believe in Jesus, He exchanges His righteousness for our sins. And from then on, when God looks at us, He sees us as perfect and righteous. He sees Jesus's whiteboard with His righteous deeds and not our blackboard with all of our sins.

Brett: Hmm. And that is the great exchange. My sin goes to Jesus, He takes the punishment, AND His righteousness—His perfect obedience—comes to me. I have never heard this before!

Oliver: That doesn't mean it isn't true! The Bible explains it.

Ashton: The Bible tells us that Jesus was perfectly obedient. But He is the only one who could be. All the rest of us are sinners. And God hates sin! And He must punish sin.

Oliver: That's the reason we all need a Savior. That is the reason Jesus came. He took the punishment on Himself. He was able to do that because He was perfect. We could never do it ourselves. Because we were born in sin, and we'll always be sinners.

Ashton: And that is where the "exchange" comes in. When He took our punishment, He also gave us His righteousness. And God sees all of His children—all those who trust in Jesus—as good, sinless, and forgiven!

Brett: That is some "great exchange!" I'll have to think about this stuff. Will you guys help me? Maybe I could come to Bible study with you. I have a lot to learn!

Ashton: Of course! We all have tons to learn. We'd be thrilled if you came. Studying God's Word is the only way we can even begin to understand Him and His plan to save sinners!