

In Need of Confidence Script

Characters: Noah, Gary, and Will

Noah, Gary, and Will are talking after their latest soccer game.

Noah: Good game, guys! That winning goal was amazing, Will. So, why are you so quiet?

Will: Huh? Oh, I don't know. Just thinking about tonight, I guess.

Gary: Aren't you auditioning for the church play tonight?

Will: I was going to, but now I'm not sure.

Gary: Why? You love being in those plays. Last year you were one of the disciples—John, wasn't it?

Will: That's right.

Gary: I loved the part when Jesus spoke to His disciples about following Him. I remember He said, "You must deny yourself and follow Me." And when He said that part about taking up your cross—your face! Will, it was so intense! You should do it.

Will: Thanks. But that's the thing. It's just acting—playing a part. I was getting excited about being in it this year again, and then I got to thinking. I've been a hypocrite. I don't even believe all that stuff. I mean, I sit there Sunday after Sunday, and I don't get anything out of the sermons. I don't even think I believe in God. He seems so far away.

Noah: Whoa! Let's talk about this. Did you ever believe in God, Will? Or did you stop believing in God, or what?

Will: I thought I believed when I was little. But the things I hear at church are so different from what I learn in school now. It seems like school, TV, books—all of that is more reliable than the things I hear at church.

Gary: Sounds like you need some answers. And we can give you some. Right, Noah?

Noah: I think so. Will, you said that you don't believe what you've heard in church. What do you mean?

Will: You know, compared to the Discovery Channel, science class, the History Channel, movies, books—it just doesn't seem like the Bible is true! It's not real history.

Gary: You need some confidence. You need to know that the Bible is true and not just a story book.

Noah: All those places that you think are good sources for truth, like TV and books—they're just made by people. And people make mistakes—even the smartest people in the world make mistakes. That's why science is always changing and the science books are updated every year. Even the science and history shows are written by people who don't know everything. So, they aren't a good source for truth at all.

Gary: But the Bible wasn't written by people. It was written by God. God doesn't make mistakes, and He doesn't lie.

Will: Wait a minute! People *did* write the Bible! I know that—like Moses, David, Isaiah, John. Different people wrote different parts.

Gary: Well, the truth is *God* inspired people to write the Bible. Each and every word is exactly what He wants us to have. We know because He tells us in His Word.

Noah: That's why it's called "God's Word." It would have been impossible for more than 40 authors to write a book that doesn't have any contradictions and has the same message. And it was written over a period of 1,500 years. The people didn't even know each other!

Will: I never knew that. "God's Word," huh? I never knew why it was called that. I think I get it. You're saying that the Bible is super reliable because it was written by God. The other stuff I read and listen to may not be completely true.

Gary: No. We want you to understand the Bible is *completely* reliable because God never makes mistakes.

Noah: And men make mistakes all the time!

Will: But why does that matter? OK. So the Bible is true. So what? Why should I care?

Gary: Because it has answers! What questions do you have about God? I am confident that the Bible will be able to answer them.

Will: OK. I keep hearing that there are many ways to get to heaven—not just one. Is that true? It sounds good—like that is the way God would do it.

Gary: Sure, it sounds good. But we can't rely on how something sounds. We have to rely on what God's Word says!

Noah: That's right. Jesus said there is only one way to the Father, and it's through Him. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." God's Word is clear. Jesus is the *only* way. No matter what you hear from other sources, you can trust the Bible. It explains from cover to cover that Jesus is the Savior, and He came to offer sinners eternal life!

Will: (*slowly and deliberately*) OK. I see what you're saying. If the Bible is God's Word, and God said that there is only one way for salvation, then what other people are saying can't be true, because it goes against what God's Word says.

Gary and Noah: Right!

Will: I have another question. The Bible probably doesn't answer this, but why don't I get anything out of church or Sunday school? I mean, stuff in the Bible is kind of boring. You know?

Noah and Gary look at each other and smile.

Noah: You won't believe this Will, but the Bible actually does answer that question. Gary and I were just learning about that in our Sunday school class. Jesus told a parable about a man who went out to plant seeds. The seeds fell on four different kinds of ground.

Gary: That story will answer your questions. You should read it.

Will: No. Tell me now! What does it say?

Noah: You should read the whole thing for yourself. But Jesus said that the Word of God is like a seed. It needs soil to grow. Your heart is the soil. And you know that in order for seeds to grow strong and healthy, a farmer gets his soil ready before he plants seeds. He plows it and does things to make sure the seed can grow after it's planted. Seeds don't grow if the soil is hard or rocky.

Will: I don't get it. My heart is soil? And it is hard? Are you saying I've got a hard heart?

Gary: Kind of. You've been hearing the Word of God in church. That's good. But maybe your heart hasn't been ready to receive it before. Only God can soften your heart so it's ready to receive the seed. Pray and ask God to help you understand what you hear. His Word is living and active. And He will help you appreciate and learn from it.

Will: You know, what you're saying does help. I do want to know more about Him. But do you think He really cares about me? Does He care if I believe in Him? I'm just a kid.

Noah: It is hard to imagine! God is so big and so powerful, and we are so little; it does seem hard to believe that He would care for us and for our souls. But I can tell you that He does care!

Gary: After all, Jesus lived, died, and rose again so that everyone who believes could have eternal life. That isn't the sacrifice of someone who doesn't care! And the Bible tells us that all of heaven rejoices when one sinner repents of his sins and turns to Jesus for salvation.

Will: Really?

Gary: Yes! It isn't just Jesus who cares—but all of heaven!

Noah: And all of heaven will rejoice if you repent of your sins, believe the Bible, and trust Jesus to forgive you through His death and Resurrection!

Will: I guess the Bible has more in it than I realized. But I have more questions. Like, does the Bible explain who Jesus is? I mean, is He God or God's Son, or a good teacher, or what?

Gary: That is definitely in the Bible! Jesus is way more than a good teacher. He is God, *and* He is God's Son. The Bible explains it all!

Will: Oh, and if I love God and choose to follow Him, will I have a better life? Is that why people become Christians?

Gary: Your life will be better because Jesus forgives sin and gives eternal life to believers. And, when believers die they will be with Jesus forever! And they won't sin anymore!

Noah: In fact, no one in heaven will even be ABLE to sin! That's something to celebrate!

Gary: But before all that, while we are still on earth, Jesus said His followers would have a hard life—a life of sacrifice and persecution. He said we must deny ourselves and follow Him. He wants to be first in our life. He wants to be the most important thing.

Will: Really? I didn't expect you to say that. That doesn't sound good! Put Jesus before everything?

Noah: Some people think it sounds terrible. But I'm telling you. It is really wonderful! If you are a follower of Jesus, you *know* that eternity with Him is far better than all the glamour and glitz of this world.

Will: You guys have really helped me! You are so excited about God's Word. It does make me want to learn more!

Gary: Well, let's get together more to talk. In the meantime, read the Bible and pray that God will help you to understand it and love Him!

Will: OK! That's good advice.