

The Fair, Muddy Pigs, and the Gospel

Teacher Instructions: Print four scripts, one for each character and one for you.

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Characters: *José, Lindsey, and Jackson*

The three friends have just arrived at the fair.

Lindsey: Thanks for inviting us to go to the fair with your family, José.

José: Sure! I'm glad you could come.

Lindsey: Can we go to the petting zoo?

Jackson: I hope we have time to go on rides and wander through the exhibit halls.

Lindsey: Or we could go to the event barn. I think it's time for pig wrestling!

José: Ha! I saw pictures from that last year. My friends got so muddy! It reminded me of how I felt before Jesus washed my sins away.

Jackson: Why do you always have to go there—talking about Jesus all the time?

José: He's changed my life. I can't help but think about Him all the time. And when something great happens to you, don't you love talking about it?

Jackson: I guess. But it seems like you are always judging everyone else when you talk about Jesus this and Jesus that.

José: I'm sorry you feel judged. I love Jesus, so I talk about Him.

Lindsey: I'm not *trying* to judge anyone. And I don't think José is either.

Jackson: It just seems really "holier than thou" when you talk about Jesus so much.

José: It's not like that. Jesus forgave my sins. He made me a new creation. It's the best thing that ever happened to me, so it comes up sometimes.

Lindsey: That's right! Now that I have the hope of eternal life with God, I am so grateful! And, of course, I want to talk about it.

Jackson: I've thought about becoming a Christian. Who doesn't want to go "up there"—you know—to heaven when he dies?

Lindsey (*laughing*): Well, just thinking about it won't get you "up there."

Jackson: I guess I know that. But I try to be good, obey my mom and dad most of the time, and I know I'm better than a lot of kids at school.

José: Getting to heaven doesn't have to do with how many good things you've done.

Jackson: It doesn't? What does it have to do with?

José: Well, it has to do with sin. God hates sin. Just one sin is enough to separate us from God forever. And the Bible says we are ALL sinners!

Lindsey: That's right. God is holy. He can't look at sin. So because of that, no one could ever be with Him in heaven . . . because we ALL sin.

Jackson: What? So, no one is going to heaven? Is that what you are saying?

José: No. Not at all. God is amazing, and He had a plan from the beginning that would offer forgiveness to sinners and allow them to spend eternity with Him in heaven!

Lindsey: You see, God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world. Jesus never sinned at all. He lived a perfect life.

José: But even though He was perfect, He suffered and died on the Cross. He took the place of sinners and took their punishment when He died on the Cross.

Jackson: Sorry. That just sounds too horrible! It doesn't even sound fair!

Lindsey: It sounds awful, and it was awful, and it wasn't fair. The innocent Son of God died in the place of guilty sinners. But, it shows God's amazing love for sinners! Jesus died for sinners. And He did not deserve it.

José: Yes! And whoever believes in Jesus, like the Bible says, will have forgiveness and eternal life!

Jackson: Okay! So, if we believe that Jesus died on the Cross, THEN we get to go to heaven?

Lindsey: There's a little more to it.

José: After Jesus died, He was buried in a tomb. Then three days later He rose from the dead.

Jackson: I believe Jesus died on the Cross. But rising from the dead? I heard that was just a hoax.

Lindsey: Well, the Bible says Jesus was alive. The tomb was empty. Hundreds of people saw Him alive. And the Bible is God's Word!

José: Jackson, God would not lie about what happened to Jesus!

Lindsey: Jesus's Resurrection gives believers hope. It means that they will have eternal life with Him! Because He lives, believers know that they, too, will live!

Jackson: Is that where heaven comes in?

José: Yes. That's where heaven comes in. Eternal life starts on earth when a sinner repents of his sins and Jesus becomes his Savior! And it continues after the believer dies because he has everlasting life with God. All because of what Jesus did while He was on earth!

Lindsey: Jackson, this all starts when you realize you are sinful and you need forgiveness. Forgiveness only comes if you are really sorry for your sin because you know it offends the Creator God!

José: When you realize that, you will repent!

Lindsey: Repentance means you turn away from your sin because you don't like doing it anymore. And you turn toward Jesus because you are grateful for what He did when He died for sinners!

José: Being a Christian is great! And hoping for heaven is wonderful! You won't want to stop talking about it. I guarantee your life will change.

Jackson: OK. Thanks. I'm going to think about what you said—after the pig wrestling event! I've never heard any of this explained before. This stuff is pretty interesting! But let's go. The pig wrestling is about to start! *Jackson runs ahead.*

José and Lindsey talk privately after Jackson runs ahead.

José: Lindsey, do you realize what just happened?

Lindsey: You mean about the Great Commission? That we shared the gospel with Jackson?

José: Yes! I never thought I'd have an opportunity to tell someone the gospel. But it just happened!

Lindsey: We've been learning about it. I guess God wanted to give us a chance to put it into practice.

José: I'm going to keep praying for opportunities to share about Jesus. I thought I was too young.

Lindsey (*laughing*): Well, I guess that theory just blew out the window!

José: Come on. Let's go. We may have more chances to talk about Jesus today! We want to be ready.

José and Lindsey hurry to catch up with Jackson.