

What Are You Afraid Of?

By

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Theme:

This play attempts to convey how much power we have available to us through our relationship with our Lord and Savior. The text for the sermon is that of Jesus calming the storm while the disciples were out on a boat.

Biblical Reference:

Luke 8:22-25

Approximate Running Time:

15 minutes

Props:

A backpack containing a Bible which is stuffed to the brim with church bulletins, etc.

Cast of Characters:

Chris: A strong Christian teenager who is not afraid to share his faith with his friends. He should be played as a frail looking youth. This part could also be played by a girl.

Peter: A doubter. This teenager is skeptical about everything. He is a friend of Chris and Paul's but he is not a Christian.

Paul: A young Christian who looks to Chris for leading. He is not afraid of his new found faith but he is not sure of how it should be exhibited in his life.

Teacher: Somewhat of an absent minded teacher who has his heart in the right place. This part can be played by either a man or a woman.

Butch: A bully who knows Chris, Peter, and Paul from school.

Scene:

Chris and Peter are standing outside of their church just before the first day of DVBS is to begin.

Chris: Well, it's that time of the year again. Here we are at the beginning of another year of daily vacation Bible school.

Paul: It's hard to believe that it's been a whole year since last year's DVBS.

Chris: Do you remember last years' vacation Bible school?

Paul: Of course I do. We sang some songs, we played some games, we did some crafts, we heard some stories - we had a lot of fun.

Chris: I remember all of that too. What I wanted to know was, do you remember what we learned last year, you know, what was it all about?

Paul: Well...hum....humph... You know what? I don't remember.

[Teacher approaches Chris and Paul.]

Teacher: Hey kids, it's great to see you here again this year.

Chris: Hello [Mr. or Mrs. Teacher.]

Teacher: Are you guys standing out here because you are unsure of where your class is going to be this year?

Chris: No, were trying to remember what we did last year at vacation Bible school, but we're having a hard time doing it.

Teacher: Oh, that's easy. We sang some songs, we played some games, we did some crafts, we heard some stories; we had a lot of fun.

Paul: We remembered all of that stuff. What we couldn't remember is what those stories were all about. Do you remember what the stories were all about?

Teacher: Of course I do. That's an easy question. The stories were all about Jesus.

Chris: I remember that Jesus was the center of all of the stories, but I still can't remember what the theme was. Do you remember what the theme was?

Teacher: Let me think about that. [*Thinking.*] Um...Humph...Ah...Oh...
 [*Attempting to hide the fact that he can't remember.*] Well, I have other things that I have to do. I'll try to get back to you later. Right now I have to go and get ready to teach my class. Oh yeah, I also have to make sure that we have enough popsicle sticks to make a full scale replica of the Santa Maria. I'll see you guys inside the church.

[*Teacher exits. Paul turns to Chris.*]

Paul: Enough popsicle sticks to make the Santa Maria? What's the Santa Maria?

Chris: That was one of the boats that Columbus sailed to America in. This year's theme must be something about boating.

Paul: Now that I think about it, I may still have my DVBS book from last year here in my Bible. [*Starts to look through book bag.*]

Chris: You think that you could still have last year's DVBS book in your Bible?

Paul: Yeah. I tend to keep bulletins and Sunday school papers and other stuff that I get in church in my Bible. I usually clean it out once a year, but I haven't gotten to it in quite a while. [*Pulls Bible out of book bag.*]

Chris: I think that it's about time that you cleaned it out.

Paul: [*Shuffling through the Bible*] Let's see. Here is the bulletin from Easter Sunday. Here is my Sunday school paper from Thanksgiving. Here is a bulletin from the Christmas program. Here's, oh, well, [*tucks paper back into his Bible*] here is the...

Chris: What was that other paper that you tucked back into there?

Paul: What other paper?

Chris: The one that you just took out and then tucked back into your Bible really fast?

Paul: This? Oh, this is nothing.

Chris: I want to see what that is.

Paul: No, you don't need to see that. We're looking for that book.

Chris: I remember. But I want to see what's on that piece of paper.

Paul: All right. All right. If you must. [*Hands it over.*] It's the sign-up sheet for last year's Halloween hay ride.

Chris: So that's where that disappeared to. Let's see, how many names are on it?

Paul: [*Looking over Chris' shoulder.*] Let's see. One...two...three...four...four.

Chris: And look whose name is on there last.

Paul: I, uh, guess that it never got past me. [*Defensively.*] It must have been passed to me just as Sunday school was about to end. So I tucked it into my Bible and forgot about it. Now you should forget about it, okay?

Chris: Now I know where to look the next time that we are missing a sign-up sheet. Did you find the DVBS book yet?

Paul: [*Holding it up.*] Here it is. "Go to the ant." Now I remember what we did last year. We looked at the strong points of different animals throughout God's kingdom.

Chris: It's too bad that we couldn't remember what we had learned without the help of your Bible filing cabinet. I think that we should pay better attention to what we learn about this year.

Paul: Yeah, I don't want to have to keep all of this year's papers in my Bible until next year. This thing is starting to get really heavy.

[*Butch appears on the stage.*]

Paul: Oh no. Here comes that bully, Butch. I hope that he doesn't pick on me again.

Butch: Hey you two, what are you doing standing here? Don't you know that I own this block. [*Looks up at the church, pointing*] You're not going into that church on a Monday, are you?

Chris: As a matter of fact we are. What's it to ya?

Butch: I should have known better than to think that two wimps like you would know that a church is only open on Sunday.

Chris: As a matter of fact, we are here for daily vacation Bible school.

Butch: Daily vacation Bible school? That sounds like somethin' for wimps, wussies, girls, and losers. Besides, you belong in that church wastin' your time singing songs and playing games. I should have known better than to bother with you two church lovers.

Chris: DVBS isn't just about singing songs and playing games.

Paul: [*To Chris under his breath.*] Chris, don't you think that we would be much better off if we just leave Butch alone and go into church? Like, right now!

Chris: [*To Paul.*] I'm not afraid of him. [*To Butch.*] DVBS is where we learn about God and Jesus and what He has done for us. We also learn about the Bible and how we can apply what is written in the Bible to our everyday lives.

Butch: Well, go ahead, do what you want, but don't forget that I told you that it was a waste of time. [*He walks forward and pushes Chris, causing all of the papers to fall out of his Bible. He then walks off of the stage laughing.*]


[*Chris and Paul bend down to pick up the papers.*]

Paul: I can't believe that you weren't afraid of him.

[*There is a peal of thunder off in the distance.*]

Paul: [*Starting to get scared of the thunder.*] Come on, we had better get inside before the lightning gets too close to us. [*He runs inside, leaving Chris to retrieve the rest of his papers alone. Chris finishes gathering his papers and runs after Paul..*]

- CURTAIN -



Scene II

Scene: It is just after the first day of DVBS. There has just been a great storm. Chris, Peter, and Paul have gathered together to talk about day one.

Paul: Boy, I can imagine what those disciples must have felt like when they were out there in the middle of that storm on a small boat. My Dad took me out fishing in his row boat once. While we were out on the lake we could see that a storm was coming towards us. All of a sudden the wind and the waves started to come up. I was so afraid.

Chris: I know what you mean. I'm so glad that the story in the Bible ended as it did. Do you realize that it means that we don't have to be afraid like the disciples were.

Peter: Do you really think that we don't have to worry about anything bad happening to us?

Chris: In that story we learned about how much power the Lord has. I mean, if He can control the wind and the waves, then just think of what He can do for us. We also learned that we're able to tap into His power whenever we need it. He's able to give us all the strength that we need to get through any situation.

Paul: Any situation?

Chris: Yes, we can ask for His help to get us through any situation.

- Peter: Do you mean that when I'm having a problem at school that all I have to do is ask God to help me out and my problem will be solved?
- Chris: No, I didn't say that. The story in the Bible doesn't say that. It said that God has the power and strength that we need to get us *through* any situation. It didn't say that God would solve our problems if we just ask Him to.
- Paul: It's too hard to get *through* a situation. I want God to get me out of trouble. Are you saying that God can't solve my problems.
- Chris: No, that is not what I said. Didn't Jesus solve the disciple's problem while they were out there on the boat?
- Peter: Yeah.
- Chris: Then God is *able* to solve our problems, but what good would it do us if He solved all of our problems? Think about it. Do you have a friend who has parents who will do anything to get him out of any kind of trouble whatsoever without making him do anything in return?
- Paul: I do. His name is John Jones. Last summer we were playing baseball in his front yard. He hit a baseball through his neighbors front window. His parents paid to get the window fixed. He told me that they didn't even make him do any extra chores and he didn't lose any of his allowance.
- Chris: Do you think that John learned anything because of what his parents did?
- Peter: Yeah. That he should go to his parents the next time that it happens and he won't have to do anything about it.
- Chris: That's right. John knows that no matter what he does wrong that his parents will make it right and nothing at all will happen to him.
- Peter: Man, I wish that my parents would do that for me.
- Chris: Do you? Think about it. John hasn't learned anything, he hasn't gained any responsibility for his actions, and he has no reason to go out of his way to ensure that it doesn't happen again. I don't think that I want my parents to do something like that for me. I appreciate the fact that my parents let me know when I have done something that I shouldn't have done. They are there to help me make the situation right, but they make sure that I take responsibility for my actions. I'd much rather have them do that than to do everything for me.
- Paul: Isn't that the way that God treats us? He lets us know that we have done something wrong, He is there to give us all of the support and things that we need to fix what we've done, but He doesn't just reach down out of heaven and make everything better for us.
- Peter: Well, I still wish that my parents would do everything for me. I also think that it would be great if God would just reach down from heaven and make everything better.

Paul: What would you learn? How would you ever grow? Do you want to be a child all of your life, or do you hope to make your own choices someday?

Peter: I make my own choices now.

Chris: Are they the right choices?

Paul: I can see what you are talking about Chris. I would much rather be able to solve my own problems knowing that I have God to lean on for support. I wouldn't want to have God do everything for me.


Chris: It's not as if God hasn't done anything for us. Just look at what Christ did for us by dying on the cross, isn't that enough? We couldn't get into heaven without Him. God didn't create us to be a bunch of robots. He created us to be thinking, feeling human beings who would rely upon His power and strength to get us through any situation that we get ourselves into.

Paul: I know that I sure get myself into some good ones from time to time. It's good to know that God will be there to help get me through my next problem. [*Looking off stage.*] Hey, there's my mom. I have to go. I'll see you guys tomorrow. [*He exits.*]

Chris: I have to go too. I think that you should think about what we learned today. We can talk about it again tomorrow. [*Exiting.*] I'll see you tomorrow.

Peter: Bye. [*He exits.*]

- CURTAIN -



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