

GODSPELL 12-19-09

CASTLIST

Jesse. *The new Kid.*
Jud. *A mysterious kid that seems to be protecting something.*
Johna. *A Christian through and through. New to the place. Loner.*
Gilmer. *A girl that pretends everything is okay. Hangs with Jud.*
Jeffrey. *A skater kid. Hangs with Jud.*
Sonia. *Needs power over others to feel in control. Hangs with Jud.*
Joanne. *Class clown.*
Robin. *Your classic tree hugger.*
Lana. *A peacemaker... but has a hard time being taken seriously.*
Herb/Helena. *A closeted kid. Loner.*
Peggy. *Deals with life by rocking out on her air guitar.*

**still working on Johna's reveal at the end....connection to John Babbist*

ACT 1

An Urban Playground.. Old wooden play equipment in questionable shape. DR, a tire swing. DL, a see-saw. US a jungle gym. The sounds of the city are close and distant, the only constant is the breeze.

A kid enters. Then another. Then another. And on and on, each shape and size... some stand alone, some in cliques. All seem frustrated, which explodes in to: (Our PROLOGUE RAP)

Chorus:

What?

What I want?

What?

What?

What I got?

What?

Stop!

Feel me drop this talk on this spot!

Gilmer.

Hah!

Sonia.

Hah!

Jeffery.
What I got?

Joanne.
What I got?

Helena.
What I got?

Jud.
It's not what I want!

Peggy.
What I want's what I want!

Chorus:
Here! Me! Screaming out to you!
To you?
To you?
Don't really know who's you, but:
Here! Me! Screaming out to you!

Robin.
But do I call you Zeus or do I speak Hebrew?!

Lana.
Or do you even care?

Gilmer.
Or do you even listen?

Jud.
Like someone's around to make my decisions!

Chorus.
Decisions! Decisions! Decisions! Decisions!

Robin.
The globe is burning up!

Sonia.
And something called "recession"

Joanne.
And H1N1 gives me indigestion!

Jud.

Who lives who dies? Who smiles, who cries?

Peggy.

Why do some thrive? And some just survive?

Helena.

Must terrorism be my fate?

Jeffrey.

Terror of falling towers?

Helena.

Terror of Prop 8?

Chorus:

What?

What?

What I want?

What?

What?

What I got?

What?

Stop!

Feel me drop us talk on this spot!

Sonia.

I get good grades and they say I'm sorta pretty.

Jud.

*My life's kinda like *The Tale of Two Cities*.*

Helena.

There's this guy at my house I'm supposed to call Dad.

Lana.

I've got two Mom's and I think that's pretty rad.

Robin.

I'd like some solution to all this pollution!

Gilmer.

Got accepted to college but can't pay the tuition!

Jeffrey.

*I spend all my time playing *First Person Shootaz*!*

Peggy.

I'm supposed to worship this fat guy named Buddha!

Joanne.

*I've got two brothers and one is on crack
Now he's in rehab, a rehab called Iraq.*

Chorus:

*See this point we're making here, "GOD?"
We are something, it can't just be "LOST!"*

Chorus:

*What?
What?
What I want?
What?
What?
What I got?
What?*

Johna.

STOP!

All do stop as Johna runs center, and shoots her head straight up. The others watch.

Johna.

*I am!
I am!
I am. Not no man-Got no plan-Here I stand-Cuz. I. AM.
Yes, I am!
Here I am!
I know what's beyond us
What'll break and befall us
I wish I were taller
Or you would just call us
Oh, lord, up on highest
Look down on your brightest
You must hear me crying!
Just prove you exist! ... and that I'm not lying!*

Nothing.

Johna. (to the clouds)

C'mon! Just... SAY SOMETHING!

Jud. (to his clique: Jeffrey, Sonia, Gilmer)
You know what this is?

Jud, Jeffrey, Sonia, Gilmer.
RIDICULOUS!

At that all the kids look around, realize what they've been doing. Some laugh at it, others are freaked out, no one is really happy with Johna. Kids start to walk away.

Johna.
Trust me! Just! C'mon guys you said you'd give it a chance! Tell the lord what frustrates-

Jeffrey. (to John)
I can't believe you talked us into this... I'm not even a Christian!

Johna.
But you said I could show you another-

Jud. (to Johna)
-If we have to hear another one of your parables-

Johna.
-Parables are-

Sonia.
-They don't even make any sense!

Kids laugh at that.

Robin.
It's like he doesn't even know where he is!

More kids laugh at that. Johna holds strong.

Johna.
Just... here! One more thing and then I promise I'll stop.

Johna starts handing out papers. Each looks awkwardly at what's written on it.

Lana.
What's this? Is this?

Joanne
"Prepare Ye-" what?

Johna.

Just follow after me!

Johna bursts out with:

#3-PREPARE YE

John.

PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD!

PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD!

A silence, then:

Joanne. (to John)

Prepare ye to be laughed at!

Kids laugh but it doesn't stop Johna, who gets even more into it.

John.

PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD!

PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD!

Johna looks at them. They all look back, giving him many versions of the evil eye.

John.

Please?

More eyes of evil, except:

Robin.

I think we all just need to take a deep breath, relax and focus on our chakras-

Sonia.

Listen, "yoga master", the only thing I need less than Mr. Christ is Mrs. Crystals!

Robin.

Sonia, your energy offends my aura.

Jeffrey has Sonia's back.

Jeffrey.

I'm going to do a few more things to your aura if you don't shut up.

Johna.

Please don't fight! Please just do this one thing! You promised!

Jud.

I've had enough of this.

Peggy. (randomly)

Rock out!

John.

IF YOU'D JUST GIVE ME A CHANCE! It's not a joke!

Joanne.

Nope. But here's one: What the difference between-

Johna.

Shut up, Joanne!

Sonia.

Listen, Johna. I want to set a few things straight. You can do all the church-yapping you want, just do it somewhere else... and far away from me.

Johna.

Well, I know I'm not one of you popular kids but-

Jeffrey.

You are far beyond unpopular, John, you are-

Sonia is cut off by Robin, who decides to help John in this predicament.

Robin.

PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD!

Robin and John.

PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD!

Most. (with a "why not" attitude)

PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD!

PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD!

Playground Dance/skateboard skirmish

(This is a full dance/chorus singing version of the SONG all verses not below)

ALL sings verses of.

PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD!

TBD

Joanne.

That was funny.

Peggy.

Rock out, man.

Helena.

I'm not even sure why I did that.

Gilmer.

I'm not sure why you do anything, Helena/Herb.

Sonia.

If my parents found out I was singing a "God" song-

Jud.

Well you know they won't.

Sonia looks strangely at Jud.

Jud.

And it doesn't matter. We sang it.

Lana

Like he wanted us to.

Jud

Nice and loud. And we've prayed-I can't believe I prayed-but we prayed... and we've listened to your stories-

Johna.

-Parables!

Jeffrey.

That don't make any sense!

Johna.

If you'd just-

Jud.

-And? Nothing! No God! No Son of God! Heck, I'll even take God's third cousin if he or she's got identification!

The crowd basically agrees. From upstage another kid enters. He looks a little lost.

Johna.

Faith! Don't you remember faith?!

Jud.

Yeah... just don't have a lot of faith in it!

Kids laugh.

Robin.

Chakras, people!

Sonia.

Shut up, hippie!

Lana comes to Robin's defense.

Lana.

That's not nice! Can't we all work together?!

Jeffrey.

Shut up, Hippie!

Lana.

I'm not a hippie!

Robin. (to Lana)

Something wrong with Hippies?!

Peggy, taking a cue from the chaos, starts rocking out.

Peggy.

Nuh-nuh-nuh-nuh-nuh! (etc.)

In her rockage, she runs right into the new kid, named Jesse.

Jesse.

Hello?

All the kids stop laughing and look at the stranger.

Jesse.

Sorry to interrupt... I'm new here. To this town, actually. To this area, actually. And... obviously... to um.... I'm, uh... trying to find the main library.

Nothing.

Jesse.

Where's the main library?

Joanne. (playing)

In the main library place.

Jesse.

Where's that?

Joanne. (playing)

In the place where they put the main library.

Kids laugh.

Jesse.

Right.

Joanne (in Jesse's face)

Boo-Yah!

Kids laugh.

Johna.

Someone tell him where it is!

Helena/Herb.

Really don't think there's one very close.

Johna. (to Jesse)

I don't really know either... I'm pretty new here myself.

Jesse.

Cool. Thanks. Sorry to... interrupt.

Jesse starts to walk across as the kids reengage.

Johna.

So, like I was saying... you've gotta have faith!

Joanne. (just being a jerk)

So like I was saying, Have you heard the one about a priest, a rabbi, and a sasquatch?

Kids laugh.

Johna.

Shut up Joanne! Without faith there is no reason to trust anything!

This stops Jesse.

Jesse.

Well, that's not exactly true, man. Faith means doing something even though you don't trust it.

Johna.

Excuse me?

Jesse.

Sorry.

Jesse moves on.

John. (dismissing Jesse)

So, like I was saying... parables are the bible's way of teaching you lessons and if you really listen to them-

This stops Jesse.

Jesse.

Well, that's more difficult than it sounds, man. Parables are very useful, but some are so hard to understand-

Robin.

-Especially if you're Buddhist.

Lana

Or Hindu

Herb/Helena

Or a Unitarian

Helena.

Or an Atheist.

Jeffrey.

Or if you're an Agnostic Jew whose curious about the parameters of the universe and how they intersect with the likes of cultural mythos and the delineations between the aforementioned and the concepts of folklore, not to be confused with legend.

All look at Jeffrey.

Jeffrey.

I don't know what I said either.

Jesse.

... or even a devout Christian... like, um... me. Still tough to understand.

Sonia.

Great, now we have two bible thumpers!

Jesse.

I really need you not to call me that.

Gilmer.

There are worse things.

Jesse. (of John)

Your friend here... what's your name?

John.

Johna.

Jesse.

He's trying to do what he feels is right, remember that. The parables can mean something to anyone. Heck, everyone. As can Buddhist teachings, Science, Taoist Philosophy-The Torah...

Jud.

-Buddy! Stop! It's your first day in a new town. You might wanna slow down!

Jesse.

What's your name?

Jud. (with bravado)

Jude.

Jesse sizes Jud up and decides to choose another battle.

Jesse.

Nice to meet you, Jud.

Jesse walks away.

Jude. (yelling after him)

"For every man who exalts himself shall be humbled, but everyman who humbles himself, shall be exalted".

Jesse stops.

Jud.

What does that mean? Johna here keeps rambling on about it... I keep asking him "what's it mean?" and he gives me this blank stare, kinda like the one he's giving me

now. I mean, I get it; you guys grew up in Christian households. Cool. So your Christians. I even agreed, strangely enough that I should, well, that we should all learn about it. "Open Minded", right? But then comes "Faith", Christian faith which apparently means, "Hey Jude, I'm going to read you this weird story, basically in Gobble-di-glump that talks about Pharoahs and Tax Collectors and exalting and humbling and you better buy it or you aren't a good person". I don't like that. So, if you have his back, as it seems that you do-

John.

-He doesn't have my back!

Jud.

Well, it seems that he does, right? And so, I now ask you... what was your name?

Jesse.

Jesse.

Jud.

I ask you, Jesse: "For every man who exalts himself shall be humbled, but everyman who humbles himself, shall be exalted". WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

A moment. All watch Jesse.

Jesse.

Well... It's about accepting responsibility for your actions versus claiming you don't do anything wrong in the first place.

A silence, then:

Jud.

Well... (*then to John*) that makes sense.

The others seem genuinely interested. Jud walk away.

Jesse. (to John)

I didn't mean to steal your thund-

Johna. (seizing the opportunity, excited)

Tell us another one!

Jesse.

I really need to find the main library.

Johna. (really taking Jesse aside so other's can't hear)

Please! Listen, I don't know who you are, but. I just moved here, too. and, as you can see, this place is crazy. Can help me, and... please?

Jesse knows he shouldn't stay, but can't help himself.

Jesse.

I'll help. But...

Johna.

But what?

Jesse.

But... well, can you have an open mind?

Johna.

I have an open mind!

The kids laugh. They've been listening.

Jesse.

I will teach these parables, John, and I will teach them so that everyone can be involved, no one can be excluded, and all things can be debated. Cool?

Johna.

But some of them are Athiests!

Jesse. (for all)

Everyone can be involved, no one can be excluded, and all things can be debated. That's the deal.

Johna contemplates. Frustrated but willing, he walks away, making room for Jesse. All eyes on Jesse.

Jesse.

Well... where to begin?

Helena.

Maybe a song?

Lana.

I like songs!

Jesse.

Well, there are lots of those... we'll get to those. First, a story... but I'm not going to tell these stories alone, okay? ... think of it as drama class.

Sonia.

I hate drama class.

Jesse.

Well... if you want to join, do. If you don't, feel free to watch.

Sonia.

What kind of teacher are you?

Jesse.

When did I become a teacher?

Helena/Herb.

Right now, Mr. Prophet!

Jesse.

I'm no prophet... "let my deeds be witness of my worth."

Jud.

Great, more parables!

Jesse.

Shakespeare, actually. Listen, you can take what you want out of this story. No more, no less. Um... here goes!

PARABLE 1

There once was a man named Zachius. He was... um... no, lemme try again. There once was a guy named Bernie Madoff. He was super rich. Who wants to play Bernie?

Joanne. (running forward)

I do!

Jesse.

Okay. Bernie was really rich. Really really rich. Tell us how rich he was!

Joanne. (as Bernie)

Super rich! Super rich!

Whenever I see money my fingers itch!

Jesse.

But for Bernie to be super rich

He had to hone a certain other twitch

Like squandering away all his clients cash

Turning there 401ks into 101 trash.

He stole!

Is what you need to know!

Folks went broke,

*As he bought condos!
And this is the way he made his livin',
By sipping off others and leaving them trippin'!
So what happened the day the president came to town?*

Lana.
The president?

Jesse.
Of the USA.

Jeffrey.
I'll play him!

Jeffrey runs down and becomes the president.

Jeffrey. (as Prez)
Listen here, Bernie Madoff dude!

Joanne. (as Bernie)
*Back off, Prez, or I'll break you fool!
I've done no wrong, nothing at all!
All transactions protected by the law!*

Jeffrey. (as Prez)
*Bernie! Bernie! Ain't calling you a sinner!
I want to know if you'll come to dinner!*

Chorus.
Dinner? Dinner?

Jesse.
*Yeah, that pissed off the people.
This is the dude making families feeble!
And the crowd yelled and yelled
Said they'd both go to hell
Know one realized-*

Chorus.
What?

Jesse.
*I'm about to tell! See,
Dinner was a way to get Bernie talking
And talking, and eating, and eating and talking,*

Lana.

*And sooner or later the Prez found out,
Bout Bernie's life and how it was dealt,
And that Bernie was sad, and so Bernie got mad
And started hurting others to get back as his dad
And the Prez showed Bernie he wasn't alone,
Lots of sad people are hurting! And so,
When they got up and the Prez paid the bill
Bernie started to realize all his ills*

Robin.

*He just needed someone to listen for a moment
He went out the next day and became a proponent
Of charity, equal rights, bought a poor man a donut
He could do better and was willing to show it!
Yes, Bernie Madoff was one messed up dude
But with a little listening, he turned into new Scrooge.*

Jesse.

*Gave back all the money,
Begged for forgiveness
Thanked the Prez,
And opened a green business
All cuz someone decided to listen
Find common ground and stoping the dissin'.*

Applause from the kids.

John.

Wait! Wait! Was that supposed to be the Zachius story?

Jesse.

Sorta.

Sonia.

Wait! Wait! Was that supposed to be the Bernie Madoff story?

Jesse.

Kinda.

Helena/Herb.

But isn't Bernie Madoff still in jail?

Jud.

Who's Bernie Madoff?

Jesse.

Yes, it was fiction.

Jud.

And we are supposed to believe fiction?

Jesse.

No, you are supposed to take what you want out of that's useful.

A strange bell rings.

Chorus.

Gotta go!

Everyone starts to exit. Jesse just stands there not really knowing where to go. All are gone. After a moment, John reenters to Jesse.

John.

Hey.

Jesse.

Hey. That's a strange bell!

John.

Who are you?

Jesse.

The new kid?

John.

Right. Nice job. I never could have done that.

Jesse.

I just told a story.

John.

You did so much more! You could see the light of god inside them!

Jesse.

I entertained them, John.

John.

Yes! What a great way to-

Jesse.

-Stop.

John.

Stop? Dude, I'm on your side!

Jesse.

That's the problem; that we need sides.

John doesn't know what to say, except:

John.

I've gotta go.

John starts to walk away but stops to say.

John.

Your story made a difference.

Jesse.

Maybe.

**John tries to say something more begins to leave and watches without Jesse knowing.
Jesse looks up to the clouds, then all around him:**

#4-SAVE THE PEOPLE

Jesse.

*WHEN WILT THOU SAVE THE PEOPLE?
O GOD OF MERCY; WHEN?
NOT KINGS AND LORDS, BUT NATIONS
NOT THRONES AND CROWNS, BUT MEN!
FLOW'RS OF THY HEART, O GOD, ARE THEY;
LET THEM NOT PASS, LIKE WEEDS, AWAY;
THEIR HERITAGE A SUNLESS DAY.
GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE*

Johna:

*SHALL CRIME BRING CRIME FOREVER,
STRENGTH AIDING STILL THE STRONG?*

Jesse:

*IS IT THY WILL, O FATHER,
THAT MAN SHALL TOIL FOR WRONG?*

Johna: "NO,"

Jesse: *SAY THY MOUNTAINS;*

Johna: "NO,"

Jesse: *SAY THY SKIES;*

Both together:

*MAN'S CLOUDED SUN SHALL BRIGHTLY RISE,
AND SONGS BE HEARD INSTEAD OF SIGHS.
GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE*

*Jesse: WHEN WILT THOU SAVE THE PEOPLE?
O GOD OF MERCY, WHEN?
THE PEOPLE, LORD THE PEOPLE,
NOT THRONES AND CROWNS, BUT MEN!
GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE, FOR THINE THEY ARE,
THY CHILDREN AS THY ANGELS FAIR.
GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE FROM DESPAIR.*

GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE.

The kids have slowly entered throughout, listening. They join the song slowly.

*Chorus.
O, GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE.*

*Jesse.
GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE!
GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE!
GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE!
GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE!
GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE!
GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE!*

*Chorus.
WHEN WILT THOU SAVE THE PEOPLE?
O GOD OF MERCY, WHEN?
THE PEOPLE, LORD THE PEOPLE,
NOT THRONES AND CROWNS, BUT MEN!*

*GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE, SAVE US,
FOR THINE THEY ARE , FOR THINE THEY ARE.
THY CHILDREN AS THY ANGEL FAIR:
O GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE,
SAVE THE PEOPLE,
GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE
FROM DESPAIR.
GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE!*

*GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE,
O, GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE,
GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE,
O, GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE,*

*GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE,
GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE,
GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE!*

At the songs end, Jesse looks around at the kids in disbelief.

Jesse.

Where'd you guys go?

Jud comes to him... something has happened to Jud while away... he seems more willing to help, like someone has made him do so...

Jud.

God. Whatever he or she is, beard or belly or, I dunno, the wind? Or maybe nothing. Nothing more than our very selves... we are all trying to figure out our insides, deep in our internal cities at war... I dunno.

Jesse.

What are you saying?

Jud.

That your Bernie Maddoff story was fun.

Jesse laughs.

Lana.

We want more stories.

John.

Parables!

Jud.

Whatever... we're listening. *(like it's a dare:)* Entertain us, Jesse.

Jesse thinks. Looks to John, then at the others.

Jesse.

I have one. It's a good one.

Jeffrey. (creepily excited)

Is it about Harry Potter?

Jesse.

Excuse me?

Jeffrey. (creepily excited)

I told Johna the other day that it'd be cool if there was one about Harry Potter.

Jesse.

Sorry, not this one.

Jeffrey. (creepily excited)

The next one?

Jesse.

Maybe.

Jeffrey. (creepily excited)

Why maybe?

Jesse.

You ask a lot of questions.

Jeffrey. (creepily excited)

I want my Harry Potter, Jesse!

Jesse.

Okay, um, fine... Tom Riddle gives in to his lust for power, becoming Voldemort, much like Lucifer fell from Heaven and became Satan. There.

Jeffrey seethes.

Jeffrey (in a creepy, unbelievably intense way)

One Harry Potter line does not a parable make!!!

Kids laugh.

Jesse.

I promise we'll find one later.

Jeffrey. (backing up)

I'm only so patient with my Potter.

Jesse.

Cool. Um... now... to my parable...

As a sign of "okay" the kids come down and fill the playground.

Jesse.

Okay. Close your eyes.

They do.

Helena/Herb.

This better be good.

Jesse.

Just... listen... and react.

Peggy.

To what?

PARABLE 2

Sounds of wind and the sea. Maybe made by the kids themselves. The following should be a movement piece that includes the entire cast.

Jesse. (slow and beautiful)

When a country obtains great power,
It becomes like the sea:
All streams run downward into it.
The more powerful it grows,
The greater the need for humility.
Humility means trusting,
Thus never needing to be defensive.

A great nation is like a great man:
When he makes a mistake, he realizes it.
Having realized it, he admits it.
Having admitted it, he corrects it.

Robin.

He considers those that point out his faults
As his most benevolent teachers.
He thinks of his enemy
As the shadow that he himself casts.

Jesse.

If a nation is centered,
If it nourishes its own people
And doesn't meddle in the affairs of others,
It will be a light to all nations in the world.

A long silence. The kids open their eyes.

John.

I love that part!

Jesse.

You do?

Peggy.

It was kinda like the Madoff one-

Gilmer.

-But all hippie-dippy.

Robin.

I know, I loved it.

John.

What was that? John? Luke? I can't remember. Matthew?

Jesse.

Sorry, John. It's from the Tao Te Ching.

This stops Johna and instantly makes her angry.

Lana.

Tao Te What?

Jesse.

From China.

John. (seething)

What?! Why are you? Jesse! You are spreading the word of God!

Jesse.

You didn't like the message?

John goes quiet.

Jesse.

You don't agree with the message?

John.

I don't know who you are, Jesse... or why you think it's important to embarrass me-I thought you were trying to help me!

Jesse.

I'm not.

John.

What?

Jesse.

Nor am I trying to hurt you.

John.

You just show up out of-

Robin.

Find your inner calm, John!

Jesse-

I speak the language of Christian, but I've found lots of messages. Many in the Bible. Some in the Tao Te Ching. Many in the Koran. The Torah. And way beyond. God belongs to all of us. I know it's a lot. Just one step at a time. One foot in front of the other. We are all on the same path.

Johna seems distant and sits off alone. The kids look around at each other. Jesse starts to go to John but is stopped by Robin. She gives Jesse a "let me handle this" look. Jesse agrees. Robin moves to John, sings:

#5 –DAY BY DAY

Robin.

DAY BY DAY,

DAY BY DAY,

OH, DEAR LORD THREE THINGS I PRAY:

TO SEE THEE MORE CLEARLY,

LOVE THEE MORE DEARLY,

FOLLOW THEE MORE NEARLY,

Robin.

DAY BY DAY,

DAY BY DAY,

OH, DEAR LORD,

THREE THINGS I PRAY:

TO SEE THEE MORE CLEARLY,

LOVE THEE MORE DEARLY,

FOLLOW THEE MORE NEARLY,

DAY BY DAY.

2 Girls.

AH

AH

AH

AH

AH

AH

DAY BY DAY.

Chorus.

DAY BY DAY,

DAY BY DAY,

OH, DEAR LORD THREE THINGS I PRAY:

TO SEE THEE MORE CLEARLY,

*LOVE THEE MORE DEARLY,
FOLLOW THEE MORE NEARLY,
DAY BY DAY.*

*DAY BY DAY,
DAY BY DAY,
OH, DEAR LORD THREE THINGS I PRAY:
TO SEE THEE MORE CLEARLY,
LOVE THEE MORE DEARLY,
FOLLOW THEE MORE NEARLY
DAY BY DAY.*

Robin and 3 Others.
DAY BY DAY,

DAY BY DAY,

*OH, DEAR LORD,
THREE THINGS I PRAY:*

TO SEE THEE MORE CLEARLY,

LOVE THEE MORE DEARLY,

*FOLLOW THEE MORE NEARLY,
DAY BY DAY*

DAY BY DAY

DAY BY DAY

*OH DEAR LORD,
THREE THINGS I PRAY:*

TO SEE THEE MORE CLEARLY,

LOVE THEE MORE DEARLY,

TO SEE THEE MORE CLEARLY,

LOVE THEE MORE DEARLY,

Robin.
*YES I WANNA
SEE THEE MORE
CLEARLY,*

3 Others.
*TO SEE THEE MORE
CLEARLY,*

Chorus.

DAY BY DAY,

DAY BY DAY,

THREE THINGS I PRAY.

DAY BY DAY,

DAY BY DAY,

DAY BY DAY,

DAY BY DAY,

DAY BY DAY,

THREE THINGS I PRAY.

DAY BY DAY,

DAY BY DAY,

DAY BY DAY.

Chorus.
DAY BY DAY

DAY BY DAY

*LOVE THEE MORE
DEARLY, YEAH-
TO SEE THEE MORE
CLEARLY,
LOVE THEE MORE
DEARLY,*

*LOVE THEE MORE
DEARLY,
TO SEE THEE MORE
CLEARLY,
LOVE THEE MORE
DEARLY,*

*DAY BY DAY
DAY BY DAY
DAY BY DAY*

Robin.

*FOLLOW THEE MORE NEARLY,
DAY BY DAY,
DAY BY DAY, BY DAY, BY DAY,*

Robin and Chorus.

BY DAY.

At end, all eyes on Johna, who gets up smiles.

Johna.

One foot in front of the other?

Jesse.

Everyone's involved, no one excluded, and all things debated.

Johna.

I'll try.

Joanne.

Either you do or you do not, there is no try!

Johna.

See! Everyone knows some bible!

Joanne.

Dude, that's not the bible, that's Yoda.

Kids laugh. Gilmer, Lana, Sonia and Peggy are seen upstage talking.

Johna.(embarrassed)

I just love being laughed at!

Jesse.

Turn the other cheek.

John turns sharply to Jesse.

John.

Well, sometimes that's hard.

A moment of tension between them, broken by Gilmer, Lana, Jud and Peggy running down, excited.

Gilmer.

I say that we go next! You wanna see a show?

Jud.

You're gonna play along with this, Gilmer?

Gilmer.

Yep! And so are you!

All but John cheer them on as they get ready.

PARABLE 3

The entire narration should be acted out in a very stage-y vaudeville style.

Gilmer.

Okay! A man was on his way from Berkeley to Albany!

Peggy comes down and becomes the man, walking in place.

Gilmer.

He was super clean cut like one of those San Francisco Financial District Suits...

Peggy. (as man)

Oh man, I love to Twitter, Twitter, Facebook it up and Twitter some more!

Gilmer.

When he fell in among robbers who beat him, stripped him, and left, leaving him half dead.

Peggy. (as man)

I am nothing without my iPhone!

Gilmer.

Now, it so happened that this really rich guy from the Hills drove by in his Prius and saw the hurt man! But he just kept driving!

Sonia. (as Prius Guy)

I have to get to Whole Foods before they close!

Gilmer.

So, too, an aging hippie came by on his biodiesel-fueled scooter, saw the hurt guy, and just kept on driving!

Lana. (as Hippie Guy)

My chakras can't handle this pain, today!

Gilmer.

But, a UCB student was walking by as well, on her way to Jack In The Box, and came upon the hurt guy. Now, she was pretty darn poor and hadn't had the kindness from strangers, but she was moved to pity! She cleaned him up, took care of his wounds (she was studying to be a doctor) and brought this man to a safe place for the night.

Robin. (as UCB student)

"Here 's 5 dollars, take my burrito money and If you need more, I'll hit you back tonight."

Gilmer.

And the moral of the story?! Drum roll please!

The kids do a drum roll.

Gilmer.

Love your enemies! Ta-da! Pray for your Persecutors! Whoo-hoo!

All.

Whoo-hoo!

A bell sounds. Gilmer, gets dead serious.

Gilmer. (freaking out)

Oh! Oh! I'm totally late. My dad is going to kill me-

Jud.

Gilmer.

Gilmer. (panicked)

I... I, he's waiting for me! At home. I can't believe I lost track of the time-

Jud.

Gilmer!

Gilmer. (frantic)

He is sitting there alone!

Jud.

Stop! He's not waiting for you!

She stops, turns to see everyone staring at her. She turns back to hide her tears.

Gilmer.

Right. Where were we?

Jud.

Somewhere between "Who" and "Hoo".

Gilmer turns back around with a paste-on smile.

Gilmer. (faking)

Okay! WHOO-HOO!

Everyone just stares.

Gilmer. (faking)

WHOO-HOO! C'mon everybody! Whoo-hoo!

Jud.

It's okay, Gilmer.

Gilmer. (faking)

I know it's okay! That's why I'm smiling and saying-

Jud.

Stop.

Gilmer does. Looks around. Starts to cry. Jud, Jeffrey and Sonia come over and comfort her.

Jesse.

Is everything, okay?

Sonia. (still holding Gilmer)

Why do people always ask that when the answer is obvious?

Jesse.

Because we're trying.

Jud.

Don't you have a story, though? A little metaphor? A sweet little allegory for this moment? Something from the Tao te whatever...

Jesse.

I don't know what this moment is.

Jeffrey.

Maybe that's okay.

Jesse.

I just want to help.

Jud.

But that's what I'm doing, Jesse. You tell stories about people doing things. I... *do* things. So far as can tell it's the basic difference between us. But hey! Right! Love your enemies!

Jesse.

Are you saying I'm your enemy?

Jud.

It's a parable, dude. I've got an idea, Gilmer and I will tell you a little story and we'll see how you magically make sense of it for us! How about it?!

Jesse.

I'm sorry if I offended you, Gilmer. Or you, Jud. Or any of you. I'm very-

PARABLE 4

Jud.(aggressive)

The fourth parable of the day! I don't know if it's really a parable... but I have my doubts about the validity of the China one, too, so I'm just gonna say "anything goes"! Gilmer, please tell us about your family!

Gilmer. (why?)

Jud?

Jud.

Tell Jesse about your family.

Gilmer.

I can't. I don't want to.

Jud.

It's a good story. A good Christian story.

Gilmer. (suddenly disgusted)

A good Christian story!

Jesse. (to Gilmer)

You don't have to-

(Jud motions for Lana to help tell the story).

Lana

Her momma would make Gilmer get up at 4 o'clock every morning to start her prayers. And what would happen if you got those prayers wrong, Gilmer?

Gilmer doesn't respond.

Jesse.

The teachings can't be held responsible for how they are taught!

Jud and Lana together.

"Be moved by the spirit, Gilmer!"

Jud

Her Mom used to always yell. Whack!

Gilmer is visibly angry.

Lana.

But Gilmer's Mom was moved by the spirit too, many spirits. And when her mom was drunk with the lord?

JUD (to Gilmer) What's that song she used to sing?

Gilmer, filled with anger, looks at Jesse. Sings,:

#6 – LEAR YOUR LESSON WELL (note, cut out the ensemble stuff)

Gilmer.

*I CAN SEE A SWATH OF SINNERS SETTIN' YONDER
AND THEY'RE ACTIN' LIKE PACK OF FOOLS
GAZING INTO SPACE,
THEY LET THEIR MINDS WANDER,
'STEAD OF STUDYING THE GOOD LORD'S RULES.
HEY! YOU BETTER PAY ATTENTION,
BUILD YOUR COMPREHENSION
THERE'S GOING TO BE AN ASCENSION.
NOT TO MENTION ANYT THREAT OF HELL,
BUT IF YOU'RE SMART,
YOU'LL LEARN YOUR LESSON WELL.
EV'RY BRIGHT DESCRIPTION OF
THE PROMISED LAND MEANT,
YOU CAN REACH IT IF YOU KEEP ALERT.
LEANRING EV'RY LINE,
AND EV'RY LAST COMMANDMENT*

*MAY NOT HELP YOU,
BUT IT COULDN'T HURT.
FIRST YOU GOTTA READ 'EM,
THEN YOU GOTTA HEED 'EM.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU'RE GONNA NEED 'EM.
JUST AS OLD ELIJAH SAID TO JEZEBEL
YOU BETTER START TO LEARN YOUR LESSONS WELL!*

At the end of the song, Gilmer walks away.

Jud.

One night, Gilmer's Mom was.....

Jud

See, Jesse, I don't know exactly why you're here, but a heads up: our stories rival yours... because they are TRUE.

Robin

And when my friend is crying in the middle of the park....

Jud

I'm forced to remember the difference between myths and... well here we are... welcome to the land of the lost!

Jesse looks at the kids, who all stare back at him like they've been found out.

Sonia.

Now whatcha gonna do?

Jesse.

Find the library.

Lana

The Library?

Sonia.

Now that sounds helpful!

Jesse starts to go. Stops.

Jesse. (to Jud)

You don't have to be mean.

Jud stands up, all watch as he approaches Jesse.

Jud.

Well, well, our little prophet has feelings.

Jesse.

I'm no prophet.

Jeffrey.

No? Huh. Because you ACT like you are!

Jesse.

I really like to read and help people

Jud.

-you are actually getting defensive!

As is the case when there is chaos, Peggy starts rocking out.

Peggy.

Buh-duh-buhy-BAM! (*etc.*)

Another bell. Gilmer takes it in.

Gilmer. (to Jesse)

Stay.

Jesse and Jud.

What?!

Joanne.

Jud is right, there are many stories to tell. That's why we came today in the first place.

Robin

To tell, to listen, to help.

Jeffrey

Stay.

Robin

We know nothing about you.

Jesse.

I'm not sure your friend here-

Jud.

I'm not sure her friend here-

Gilmer.

All our stories are true. Yours, too. Sing us your song, Jesse.

Jesse.

I don't have a song.

Joanne.

You can't just listen to others.

Gilmer

You can't just read books.

Jesse looks around at all the kids, who stare back.

Helena/Herb.

Even I have a song. C'mon, Mr. Prophet guy.

Jesse.

Please don't call me that.

Helena/Herb.

But you're the Mr. Prophet guy.

Jesse.

Please don't-

Helena.

Mr. Proph-!

Jesse. (to shut him up)

Well, okay um... "Bless the Lord, My Soul". It's a totally strange song, actually. I sang it a lot in my church - It's so, how do I say it?

Sonia.

Lame?

Kids laugh.

Lana.

Why must you put everyone down?

Peggy.

Oh! I know that song! I know that song! I'm gonna rock it out!

Jesse.

Um... sure. You know how it goes?

Peggy.
Watch, dude.

Peggy gets ready for her song.

Peggy.
Lord's me, right?

Jesse.
Something like that.

Peggy.
Rock out!

#7 – O BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL

Peggy.
*O BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL!
HIS GRACE TO THEE PROCLAIM!
AND ALL THAT IS WITHIN ME JOIN,
TO BLESS HIS HOLY NAME, OH YEA!
O BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL!
HIS MERCIES BEAR TO MIND!
FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS,
THE LORD, TO THEE IS KIND.*

Peggy and Girls.
*HE WIL NOT ALWAYS CHIDE;
HE WILL WITH PATIENCE WAIT,
HIS WRATH IS EVER SLOW TO RISE.*

Peggy.
*AND READY TO ABATE
AND READY TO ABATE
AND READY TO,

AND READY TO
ABATE,
O, YEA!*

Men.
*O, BLESS
THE LORD.
O, BLESS
THE LORD
O, BLESS
THE LORD.

AND READY TO
ABATE,
ABATE,*

Girls.
*AND READY TO
ABATE,
ABATE.*

Peggy and Girls.
HE PARDONS ALL THY SINS;

Men.

*PROLONGS THY FEEBLE BREATH;
HE HEALETH THY INFIRMITIES.*

*ALL THY SINS,
FEEBLE BREATH.*

*Peggy.
AND RANSOMS THEE FROM DEATH*

*Girls.
O, BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL.*

*Peggy.
O YEA!*

*Men.
O, BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL!*

*Peggy.
HE CLOTHES THEE WITH HIS LOVE;
UPHOLDS THEE WITH HIS TRUTH;
AND LIKE THE EAGLE HE RENEWS*

*Men.
WITH HIS LOVE,
WITH HIS TRUTH.*

*Peggy.
THE VIGOR OF THY YOUTH.*

*Peggy and Girls.
THEN BLESS HIS HOLY NAME,
WHOSE GRACE HAS MADE THEE WHOLE;
WHOSE LOVE AND KINDNESS CROWNS THY DAYS.*

*Peggy.
O, BLESS
THE LORD, MY SOUL,*

*O, BLESS
THE LORD, MY SOUL,*

*O, BLESS
THE LORD.*

*Men.
O, BLESS
THE LORD,*

*O, BLESS
THE LORD,*

*O, BLESS
THE LORD.*

*O, BLESS THE LORD,
O, BLESS THE LORD
MY SOUL,*

Girls.

*O, BLESS THE LORD
MY SOUL,*

MY SOUL.

MY SOUL.

MY SOUL.

Peggy and 2 Others.

O, BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL!

O, BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL!

Peggy.

First Group.

Second Group.

O, BLESS THE LORD,
MY SOUL!

O, BLESS THE LORD,

O, BLESS THE LORD,
MY SOUL!

O, BLESS THE LORD,

O, BLESS THE LORD,
MY SOUL!

O, BLESS THE LORD,

BLESS THE LORD!

BLESS MY SOUL!

O, BLESS THE LORD,
MY SOUL!

O, BLESS THE LORD,

O, BLESS THE LORD,
MY SOUL!

O, BLESS THE LORD,

BLESS THE LORD!

BLESS MY SOUL!

O, BLESS THE LORD,
MY SOUL!

O, BLESS THE...

Peggy.

BLESS THE LORD!

BLESS THE LORD!

BLESS THE LORD!

All Others.

BLESS THE LORD!

BLESS THE LORD!

BLESS THE LORD!

BLESS THE LORD!

BLESS THE LORD!

BLESS THE LORD!

MY SOUL!

O, BLESS THE LORD,

MY SOUL!

O, BLESS THE LORD MY SOUL!

O, BLESS THE LORD,

MY SOUL!

Another large bell. All stop. Look at each other.

Jesse.

Is it too much to ask about the bell?

The kids don't know how to answer.

Jud.

Y'know, Jesse...That bell has been going off for, well, as long as I've been here anyway. (*changing the subject*) Let's do one of your parables. Anybody?

Jesse.
Wait-

Jud.
Hey man, happy “Christian Day”... that’s what this is becoming right? We sing your songs? We help tell your stories?

Jesse.
I don’t have some master plan.

Jud.
You should. I’d like to see if it’s more interesting than mine.

Helena/Herb.
Jud, shut up!

Jesse.
What does that mean?

Johna.
Yeah, what does that mean? (*to Jesse*) he said the same thing to me awhile ago!

Jud. (with a smile)
I’m just being a punk! Pay me no mind. Parable time!

Jeffrey. (as though he’s been thinking of nothing else)
FOR THE LOVE OF ANYTHING, IT’S POTTER TIME!

Jesse.
Well-

Jeffrey.
POTTER TIME!

Jesse.
But-

Jeffrey.
POTTER!

Jesse.
Jeff-

Jeffrey.
SNAPE-HERMIONE-POTTER-POTTER-YOU CAN’T STOP THE ROWLING!

Jesse can't keep up.

Jesse.

Fine, Jeffrey. Please do your own para-

PARABLE #5

This is enough for Jeffrey who takes off:

Jeffrey. (taking an oddly scholarly approach)

There once was a kid named Harry Potter! I, Jeffrey, am Harry Potter! I will prove through this story that Harry Potter has much to do with Christianity as well as proving that I am much like Harry Potter! Example 1!

As a small child, Harry was forced to live under the stairs.

(Robin acts out the part of Harry) A small space. Much like Jesus was forced to... um, well, when he was crucified they put him in a small space... until he rose from the dead... which I think happened because the Easter Bunny helped him escape. I'll admit, I'm not clear on that part.

Lana.

What's going on?

Sonia.

He's losing his mind.

Jeffrey.

I once accidentally got stuck in a cardboard box. It was awkward, won't go into it, but needless to say, I have much in common with Harry Potter!

Sonia.

He's losing his mind.

Jeffrey.

QUIET! Example 2! Harry has a bunch of wizard friends that believe in him. Especially Hermione and Ron.

Just like Jesus, though Jesus had like twelve Hermiones and Rons... so, fine, on this point, Jesus is cooler. Again, I am much like Harry, as I too am not as cool as Jesus.

Lana.

Is this even a parable?

Joanne.

Only in the most ironic sense.

Sonia.

He's losing his mind.

Jeffrey.

QUIET! Lastly! Harry Potter finally defeats Voldemort in an epic battle of good and evil encompassing all the themes in the bible... I bet. I don't know because I haven't read the bible. But I will say, I too have battled Voldemort in an epic battle... it just happened in my room, on my computer... playing the Harry Potter video game. Small differences. But, again, Harry and I-

Jesse.

Someone needs to talk him down.

Joanne.

It's kinda fun to watch... in a sick, twisted way.

Jeffrey.

Laugh if you will! My case is closed! Thank you and goodnight!

Jeffrey bows yet no one has clapped.

Jesse.

Somewhere, deep down, there was a good idea in there.

Jud.

Hey, man. If you get to talk, he gets to talk.

Helena/Herb

We're all here for a reason.

Jesse, stares at Jud, unsure.

Jud gets up in Jesse's face.

Jud.

You really believe that?

Jesse doesn't know how to answer. He just stares at Jud. Finally, to break the tension:

Gilmer.

Okay! Another story?

Jesse

There once was a man who had two sons.

Jud.

Yeah, yeah, I know this one. One sticks with him. One goes away. The one that goes away is a jerk and loses all his riches... begs for forgiveness. Tell it a different way.

Jesse.

A different way?

Jud.

Dude, you did a rap about Bernie Madoff.

Jesse, thinks.

Jesse.

You do it.

The kids laugh. Jud looks around.

Jud. (a bit sarcastic)

Why... what an interesting idea. Alright!

PARABLE #6

Jud.

Cool. So... um... There's this dude. He's a Dad. He's got two sons. One son, is a total peace nut... waving protest signs whenever he can.

Jeffrey.

The other, ironically, believes the way to love his country is to fight for it in foreign lands!

Kids come down to play roles.

(Sonia, Robin, Joanne, Peggy)

Jud.

The two brothers hated each other.

Brothers. (to each other)

I hate you.

Jeffrey.

But Dad tried to keep things even. Gave them both as much love as he could.

Army Bro. (Sonia)

I want more!

Dad. (2 people = one Dad (experiment –ex. arms/puppet version -Joanne + Peggy)

It's all I have.

Peace Bro. (Robin)

I don't want more!

Dad.

That's nice, son.

Army Bro.

But I need more. I have debt. Everything I have falls apart...

Dad.

Look to the lord, son.

Army Bro.

No! In protest for you not meeting my needs I'm going to rebel and join the army!

Dad.

Okay.

Jud.

So his son enlisted in the army and flew overseas to start blowing things up.

Lana

That's what they do these days, right?

Jeffrey

Blow things up?

Helena.

Yup.

Jud.

So... he blew things up.

Dad.

I'll miss him.

Peace Bro.

Miss him? He's a jerk!

Dad.

He's my son!

Peace Bro.

I'm your son!

Jeffrey.

Meanwhile, the other son?

Lana

was deeply entrenched in a big mean war?

Jud

He wasn't sure what to do but he did get the feeling that the more things he blew up, the less he thought about how angry he was with his family and other personal issues..

Peggy

So he kept blowing things up? (to Jud who nods)

Army Bro.

I love blowing things up!

Jud.

He blew a lot of things up and hurt a lot of people. Then, one night in his tent, he had a dream...

#8 – All for the Best – (Full company staged in this song/hat dance)

Jud, Jesse (still with tension between them) and the rest sing to him. At end:

Jesse

*WHEN YOU FEEL SAD, OR UNDER A CURSE,
YOUR LIFE IS BAD, YOUR PRSPECTS ARE WORSE*

PEGGY, Helena AND JOANNE (Jesse is dancing with them-proudly)

*YOU WIFE IS SIGHING,
CRYING AND YOUR OLIVE TREE IS DYING
TEMPLES ARE GREYING,
AND TEETH ARE DECAYING
AND CREDITORS WEIGHING YOUR PURSE*

Robin-Is everybody happy?

ALL –ehhhh

(Jesse motions for Robin and Sonia to help her sing/make peace)

Jesse, Robin, Sonia

*YOUR MOOD and your robe
Are both a a deep blue
You'd BET THAT JOBE
HAD NOTHING ON YOU YOU.
DON'T FORGET THAT WHEN YOU GET TO
HEAVEN YOU'LL BE BLEST
YES, ITS ALL FOR THE BEST.*

JUDAS

*Some Men are Born to live AT EASE
DOING WHTAT THEY PLEASE*

*RICHER THAN THE BEES ARE THE HONEY
NEVER GRWOING OLD
NEVER FEELING COLD PULLING POTS OF GOLD FROM THIN AIR*

JUDA +JOANNE/PEGGY
*THE BEST IN EVERY TOWN
BEST AT SHAKING DOWN
BESTA T MAKING MOUNTAINS OF MONEY
THEY CAN'T TAKE IT WITH THEM
BUT WHAT DO THEY CARE
THEY GET THE CENTER OF THE MEAT
CUSHIONS ON THEIR FEET
HOUSES ON A STREET WHERE ITS SUNNY
SUMMERS AT THE SEA,
WINTERS WARM AND FREE
ALL OF THIS AND WE GET THE REST*

JUD ALONE
*BUT WHO IS THAT LAND FOR?
THE SUN AND THE SAND FOR?
YOU GUESSED
IT'S ALL FOR THE BEST.*

JESSE/SONIA/ROBIN
*WHEN YOU FEEL SAD, OR UNDER A CURSE,
YOUR LIFE IS BAD, YOUR PRSPECTS ARE WORSE
YOU WIFE IS SIGHING,
CRYING AND YOUR OLIVE TREE IS DYING
TEMPLES ARE GREYING,
AND TEETH ARE DECAIVING
AND CREDITORS WEIGHING YOUR PURSE
YOUR MOOD and your robe
Are both a a deep blue
You'd BET THAT JOBE
HAD NOTHING ON YOU YOU.
DON'T FORGET THAT WHEN YOU GET TO
HEAVEN YOU'LL BE BLEST
YES, ITS ALL FOR THE BEST.*

JUDA/JOANNE/PEGGY
*(they sing simultaneously *2)*

****2 JUDAS/JOANNE/PEGGY/Helena***
*Some Men are Born to live AT EASE
DOING WHTAT THEY PLEASE
RICHER THAN THE BEES ARE THE HONEY
NEVER GRWOING OLD
NEVER FEELING COLD PULLING POTS OF GOLD FROM THIN AIR
THE BEST IN EVERY TOWN*

*BEST AT SHAKING DOWN
BESTA T MAKING MOUNTAINS OF MONEY
THEY CAN'T TAKE IT WITH THEM
BUT WHAT DO THEY CARE
THEY GET THE CENTER OF THE MEAT
CUSHIONS ON THEIR FEET
HOUSES ON A STREET WHERE ITS SUNNY
SUMMERS AT THE SEA,
WINTERS WARM AND FREE
ALL OF THIS AND WE GET THE REST
BUT WHO IS THAT LAND FOR?
THE SUN AND THE SAND FOR?
YOU GUESSED
IT'S ALL FOR THE BEST.*

Jesse

Army Bro.

What a strange dream. Maybe my Dad was right!

Jud.

That very moment he wrote his Dad a letter, apologizing for all the mean things he had said and done and vowed to be a new man.

Kids applaud.

Jud.

But the story isn't over. Because as fate would have it, the people he had been blowing up weren't happy about it... and that very night? BOOM. His whole camp was bombed. And well, dude died.

A silence.

Jud.

His body was brought home to his father. Along with the letter, which magically didn't burn. His father read it. Cried.

Peace Son.

Why are you crying?

Dad.

Because I am happy.

Peace Son.

But your son is dead!

Dad.

Yes... but in his death... he found life.

A long silence.

Jud (to Jesse).
How'd we do?

Jesse.
I think well.

Jud.
Thanks, man. It was for you, Johna.

Jesse.
These stories are for everyone.

Jud.
This one was for Johna. Thought she might get something out of it.

Johna.
What was I supposed to get out of it?

Jud.
Can I ask you something, Jesse? What does heaven look like to you?

Jesse.
Well... I am a Christian. and I believe that when I die... there was this one time, you see, I was beat up pretty badly. Not long ago, actually. One of the reasons I moved here was to escape all the junk that went a long with that, you know.

Herb/Helena.
I know.

Jeffrey.
I know.

Jud.
We all know.

Jesse.
I thought I was going to die.

Joanne.
And what, did you see your heaven?

Jesse.

No. Actually... I saw my past. I saw my church. I saw my community. everything that built the reason I believed in... I saw my priest.

Lana becomes the priest.

I saw my family. Everyone.

Others become the congregation.

My priest... *Lana, as Priest, sings to the congregation. At end, they transform back to the present:*

LANA

WE PLOW THE FIELDS,

AND SCATTER THE GOOD SEED ON THE LAND, BUT IT FED AND WATERED

BY GOD'S ALMIGHTY HAND. HE SENDS THE SNOW IN WINTER,

THE WARMTH TO SWELL THE GRAIN, THE BREEZES AND THE SUNSHINE.

AND SOFT , REFRESHING RAIN.

ALL GOOD GIFTS AROUND US

ARE SENT FROM HEAVEN ABOVE.

THEN THANK THE LORD,

O, THANK-YOU-LORD,

FOR ALL HIS LOVE.

Jesse So don't store up your treasures on earth, where it grows rusty and moth-eaten, and thieves break in to steal it.

Johna No, store up your treasure in heaven, where there is no moth, and no rust, and no thief. For where your treasure is, so will your heart be also.

ALL

WE THINK THEE, THEN O FATHER, FOR ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND GOOD,

THE SEED TIME AND THE HARVEST, OUR LIFE, OUR HEALTH, OUR FOOD.

NO GIFTS HAVE WE TO OFFER FOR ALL THY LOVE IMPARTS,

Blessed are they that mourn...

Jesse.

For they shall be comforted.

Gilmer.

Blessed are the meek...

Jesse.

For they shall inherit the earth.

Jeffrey + Helena/Herb.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice...

Jesse.

For they shall be filled.

Sonia and Peggy together.

Blessed are the merciful...

Jesse.

For they shall have mercy.

Lana.

Blessed are the pure of heart...

Johna. (interrupting... looking at his surroundings, realizing)

For they shall see god.

Jud and Joanne.

Blessed are the peacemakers...

John. (dawning)

For they shall be called the children of God!

Many bells go off. It's a symphony.

Jesse. (over)

Where are those bells coming from?

Johna. (discovering, scared)

I... I think I just realized something!

Jesse.

This place... your town, is beautiful. I like it here.

Jud.

It has a certain something, right? A certain sort of spell.

All stare out. The bells grow louder as the lights fade to black.

End of Act 1.

ACT 2 Godspell

Same Urban Playground. No kids. Silence but for the breeze. Then... a bell. Then another, they grow, continue.

Jesse enters alone as to listen to the bells. He can't locate where they are coming from. He finally decides to stand still and take them in. Within the bells, a beat begins.

Jesse.

I am!

I am!

I am. Not no man-Got no plan-Here I stand-Cuz. I. AM.

Unseen, Helena/Herb enters and watches Jesse.

Jesse.

Yes, I am!

Here I am!

I know what's beyond us

What'll break and befall us

I wish I were taller

Or you would just call us

Oh, lord, up on highest

Look down on your brightest

You must hear me crying!

Just prove you exist! ... and that I'm not lying!

Helena/Herb laughs. Strangely, just at that moment, the bells stops ringing. Jesse turns to see Helena/Herb.

Jesse.

Hi.

Herb/Helena.

Helloooooooooooooooooooooo.

Jesse.

Your Herb/Helena.

Helena.

Yup.

Jesse.

I'm Jesse.

Helena.

Oh, I know. We all know.

Jesse.

What does that mean?

Helena.

All hail Jesse! Salt of the earth!

Jesse.

I never really understood what that meant.

Herb/Helena.

Salt of the earth?

Jesse.

Yeah.

Helena.

Me either. Sounds good though. Whatcha doing?

Jesse.

I don't know.

Helena.

Still looking for the library?

Jesse.

I guess.

Helena.

What does a prophet like you need with a library!?

Jesse.

I'm not a proph-

Helena.

C'mon, Jesse. *Something's* up, right? Maybe you can tell us how you got here cuz we're certainly drawing our own-educated-conclusions.

Jesse.

What's up with these bells?

Helena.

Everything... happens for a reason.

Jesse.

Like that no one speaks straight around here? Does that happen for a reason?

Helena.

Hey now, Mr. Prophet! No need to get negative!

Jesse.

I thought the kids were bad in the last place I lived-

Helena.

Beat you up pretty bad, huh?

Jesse.

I'd rather not talk about it.

Helena.

Well, you don't have to talk about it, Prophet! Why? Cuz you're Mr. Prophet!

Jesse.

Stop calling me that!

Helena.

Well, don't take it from me.

A big "Mr. Prophet!" is heard.

Jesse. (not great)

Great.

All the kids (except Jud) pop out. They've been listening, with:

#10 - LIGHT OF THE WORLD

(COMPANY)

ALL... (spoken in time prophets. The law and the prophets, the law and the prophets,
the law and the prophets, the law and the prophets!

HERB/HELENA

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

ALL

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

PEGGY

BUT IF THAT LIGHT'S UNDER A BUSHEL,
IT'S LOST SOMETHING KIND OF CRUCIAL

ALL

YOU'VE GOTTA STAY BRIGHT
TO BE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

GILMER

YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH.

ALL

YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH

SONIA BUT IF THAT SALT HAS LOST ITS FLAVOR,
IT AIN'T GOT MUCH IN ITS FAVOR.

ALL

YOU CAN'T HAVE THAT FAULT
AND BE THE SALT OF THE EARTH.
SO LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN.
LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE,
SO THAT THEY MIGHT KNOW SOME KINDNESS AGAIN.
WE ALL NEED HELP TO FEEL FINE.

JUD

LET'S HAVE WINE!

JEFFEREY

YOU ARE THE CITY OF GOD.

ALL

YOU ARE THE CITY OF GOD.

JOHNA and JEFFERY

BUT IF THAT CITY'S ON A HILL,

IT'S KIND OF HARD TO HIDE IT WELL.

ALL

YOU'VE GOTTA STAY PRETTY IN THE CITY OF GOD.

SO LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN.

LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE,

SO THAT THEY MIGHT KNOW SOME KINDNESS AGAIN..

WE ALL NEED HELP TO FEEL FINE.

LET'S HAVE SOME WINE!

JOANNE AND LANA

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

ALL

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

ROBIN

BUT THE TALLEST CANDLESTICK

AIN'T MUCH GOOD WITHOUT A WICK.

ALL

YOU'VE GOTTA LIVE RIGHT

TO BE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

Joanne.

It was either that or something from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

Peggy.

Or something from Whitesnake.

Jesse.

Um, thanks?

Peggy.

I really wanted to bring back some classic Whitesnake.

John runs to Jesse:

Johna.

Don't you see why you are here, Jesse?

Jesse.

You guys don't actually think I'm some sort of-

Jud (appearing)

Absolutely not!

All look to Jud.

Jud.

I'm pretty sure you aren't the "light of the world". No offense.

Jesse.

None taken.

Sonia.

But you come here. And in your hands? What do you have? My least favorite thing, an AGENDA.

Jesse.

I don't!

Jeffrey.

You sure?

Jesse. (to Jud)

Seems like you are the one with an agenda.

Jud.

Oh, I do. Difference? I don't pretend otherwise.

The strange bells ring. The kids look nervous.

Lana.

Do you hear that, Jud? Thanks, a lot!

Robin

We were supposed to be supportive to this guy and-

Jud.

Quiet.

Jeffrey.

Now the bells are-!

Jud.

It's too soon, Lana.

Lana.

This community comes with responsibility. You know that! I know that! I want a second-

Peggy.

Shut up, Lana!

All eyes on Jesse. Has he heard too much?

Helena/Herb.

Sorry, Jesse.

Jesse.

For what?

Joanne.

I'm guessing this is all a little confusing.

Jesse.

Confusing? No. I'm used to it. "Be nice to the weird kid". Funny how it's almost as bad as being mean to the weird kid. Jud, I do have an agenda. To start over. I'm here, to start over... and I'm not asking for much... just a chance.

A silence. Everyone looks to Jud. Finally.

Jud.

Who are you, Jesse?

Jesse.

Haven't we asked that enough today?

Jud.

Let's stop asking it.

Jeffrey

Let's start answering it.

All eyes on Jesse-Robbin steps in to help

Robin

Who are you?

Jesse thinks about this. All are anxious for a reply.

Jesse.

A mutt? Maybe. A mutt of ideas? Um... my parents aren't really around much, one is a lawyer the other a politician, right? I mean, I always have a roof over my head, I always have a dinner.... I suppose, as a little kid, I gave up on "parents."

The type of parents that ask you how your day was? ... I'm an afterthought. I don't blame them. So... I just dove in to books. Something my house always had a ton of. Tried to learn about the world. I made parents out of historical figures, or fictional characters, I used to think that Harry Potter was my brother.

Kids laugh.

Jud.

Who's this Harry Potter?

Jesse.

The wizard -kid? Jeffrey?

Jud.

Before my time, I guess.

Jesse.

How old are you?

Jeffrey. (quickly interrupting)

He's just more of an Artful Dodger type, right?

Jud.

Right.

Jesse.

Right. Um. So... I just read books and learned. And after while I knew a lot of things.

Joanne.

Nerd.

Kids laugh.

Jesse.

Totally. But one day I realized, I may *know* things, but I can't *feel* things. I'd watch kids on the bus laughing and screaming their heads off. Couples holding each other with those deep smiles. I didn't feel a thing. Until...

Lana.

Until what?

Jesse.

That day! That very first time I walked by that church. I had read the bible...but ... from inside the church... you could hear the singing and... from out in the cold... instantly, well: I *felt* it.

The kids start to shift into the church.

Jesse.

And when I opened those doors?

#15 – WE BESEECH THEE (note: it should look like the church we saw in the first act)

JEFFERY

FATHER, HEAR THY CHILDREN'S CALL,

HUMBLY AT THY FEET WE FALL,

PRODIGALS, CONFESSING ALL,

ALL

WE BESEECH THEE, HEAR US!

JEFFREY

WE THY CALL HAVE DISOBEYED,

INTO PATHS OF SIN HAVE STRAYED;

AND REPENTANCE HAVE DELAYED,

ALL

WE BESEECH THEE, HEAR US!

JEFFERY

COME SING ABOUT LOVE

THAT CAUSED US FIRST TO BE.

COME SING ABOUT LOVE

THAT MADE THE STONE AND TREE.

COME SING ABOUT LOVE

THAT DRAWS US LOVINGLY,

ALL

WE BESEECH THEE, HEAR US!

JEFFREY

COMPANY

Sick!

WE COME TO THEE FOR CURE,

Guilty!

WE SEEK THEY MERCY SURE

Evil!

WE LONG TO BE MADE PURE,

ALL

WE BESEECH THEE, HEAR US!

JEFFERY

COMPANY

Blind!

WE PRAY THAT WE MANY SEE,

Bound!

WE PRAY TO BE MADE FREE

Stained!

WE PRAY FOR SANCTITY,

ALL

WE BESEECH THEE, HEAR US!

JEFFREY

COMPANY

COME SING ABOUT LOVE

LOVE!

THAT CAUSED US FIRST TO BE,

COME SING ABOUT LOVE

LOVE!

THAT MADE THE STONE AND TREE,

COME SING ABOUT LOVE,

LOVE! LOVE!

ALL

THAT DRAWS US LOVINGLY,

WE BESEECH THEE, HEAR US!

BY THE GRACIOUS SAVING CALL

SPOKEN TENDERLY TO ALL
WHO HAVE SHARED MAN'S GUILT AND FALL,

WE BESEECH THEE, HEAR US!

BY THE LOVE THAT LONGS TO BLESS

PITYING OUR SORE DISTRESS,
LEADING US TO HOLINESS,
WE BESEECH THEE, HEAR US!

ONE OF GROUP

BOOM, CHICK-A-BOOM, CHICK-A-BOOM, etc.

ALL

GRANT US HOPE FROM EARTH TO RISE,
AND TO STRAIN WITH EAGER EYES,
T'WARDS THE PROMISED HEAV'NLY PRIZE;
WE BESEECH THEE, HEAR US!

JEFFEREY

COMPANY

COME SING ABOUT LOVE

LOVE!

THAT CAUSED FIRST TO BE,

COME SING ABOUT LOVE

LOVE!

THAT MADE THE STONE AND TREE.

COME SING ABOUT LOVE,

LOVE!

LOVE,

LOVE!

LOVE.

LOVE!

COME SING ABOUT LOVE, LOVE!

LOVE!

LOVE,

LOVE!

LOVE.

LOVE!

COME SING ABOUT LOVE, LOVE!

LOVE!

LOVE,

LOVE!

LOVE.

THAT DRAWS US LOVINGLY;

WE BESEECH THEE, HEAR US WE BESEECH THEE, HEAR US!

COMPANY

BOOM, CHICK-A-BOOM, CHICK-A-BOOM, CHIC-CHIC,

CHICK-A-BOOM, CHICK-A-BOOM, CHIC-A-BOOM, CHIC-CHIC,

CHIC-CHIC! BOOM-CHIC!

At end: Jesse.

I was hooked.

Joanne.

Hooked on Jesus!

Jesse.

No, hooked on the ability to feel.

Gilmer.

Same as my Mom.

Jesse.

I suppose so. Actually, at first, yeah. A lot like that. I was so excited. I mean, you've all had something like that, right?

Peggy.

Yeah, of course.

Sonia.

I guess.

Jud.

But the trick is not to get caught up in the-

John.

Shut up, Jud.

Jesse.

He's right, Johna. That's the trick. Not to get caught up in it. I'll admit I went crazy.

Robin.

I have a hard time imagining you going crazy.

Kids laugh. Jesse laughs, thinks.

Jesse.

Here's another parable for you. On the idea that parables can teach you about bad ideas. Who wants to play my parents?

Sonia and Lana raise their hands. Jesse picks them. They perform as necessary.

PARABLE #6

Jesse.

So like I said, I went crazy. I went to church everyday. Learned everything I could about The bible. Funny thing happens to a person when they learn to BELIEVE. Unfortunately they start questioning the beliefs of others... especially if you might, deep down, already be angry at them. Like, my parents. They had no time for church, let alone anytime to listen to me talk about it. So I started looking at them as bad. And bad started to mean "not Christian". As I said, I went nuts.

Johna.

I wouldn't say "nuts".

Jesse.

I went too far.

John.

I wouldn't say "too far".

Jesse.

Well, Johna, keep listening. One day I came home and there were my parents sitting at the table together. My dad reading the newspaper my mom engulfed in her blackberry. "Hi Mom", I said.

Mom/Lana.

I can't believe our stock shares are so worthless this quarter. Rebound! Rebound Rebound!"

Jesse.

Was her answer. "Hi Dad".

Dad/Sonia.

Being a lawyer isn't all it's cracked up to be. If only I could play golf all day long, I'd-

Jesse.

"Hi, Dad! Hi, Mom! It's your Son, Jesse!" Neither one even looked up.

Mom and Dad. (not looking up)

Hi Jesse.

Jesse.

I was disgusted. So... I decided I would, right there and then, hold church.

Kids laugh.

Helena.

There's my Mr. Prophet!

Jesse.

Yep. I went on about the kingdom of heaven and how, I knew I had to do things real things to be worthy – I had to earn my way into Heaven. For heaven does not take all types! You must believe in Christ and his teachings to enter the gates!"

Jud.

Is that what you think?

Robin

What about me and Lana we're Jewish?

Jeffrey

I'm agnostic

Sonia

I'm undecided

Jesse.

Well, um... I believe in heaven yes, and yes you have to be good-

Helena/Herb.

Define good!

Gilmer.

Let him finish his story!

Jesse.

Thanks. So, yeah, my parents were shocked. Shocked that I was getting involved –with real problems on the streets of Richmond – teens who hate each other –teens who kill – I had god on my side. They didn't say anything. Until:

Dad/Sonia.

This Christian do-gooder fad of yours is turning into something dangerous –You aren't Jesse anymore.

Mom/

You're not doing these good deeds for yourself –You've lost yourself and I am quite frankly embarrassed.....

Jesse.

I couldn't believe he said that! So, um, then I did this!

#13 – ALAS FOR YOU (*note: should be Jesse railing on his parents*)

shorten the song tbd with Phil-likely one verse, bridge + ending

JESUS

ALAS, ALAS FOR YOU, LAWYERS AND PHARISEES, HYPOCRITES THAT YOU
BE, SEARCHING FOR SOULS AND FOOLS TO FOR SAKE THEM,

YOU TRAVEL THE LAND, YOU SCOUR THE SEA; THEN WHEN YOU'VE GOT
YOUR CONVERTS,

YOU MAKE THEM TWICE AS FIT FOR HELL AS YOU ARE YOURSELVES.

ALAS, ALAS, FOR YOU, LAWYERS AND PHARISEES, HYPOCRITES THAT YOU
ARE; SURE THAT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN AWAITS YOU.

YOU WILL NOT VENTURE HALF SO FAR. OTHER MEN WHO MIGHT ENTER
THE GATES YOU

KEEP FROM PASSING THROUGH; DRAG THEM DOWN WITH YOU.

YOU SNAKES, YOU VIPER'S BROOD YOU CANNOT ESCAPE BEING DEVIL'S FOOD.

I SEND YOU PROPHETS AND I SEND YOU PREACHERS; SAGES IN RAGES AND AGES OF TEACHERS. NOTHING CAN MAR YOUR MOOD.

ALAS, ALAS FOR YOU, LAWYERS AND PHARISEES, HYPOCRITES TO A MAN; *Cut song here? Maybe add some more/PHIL???

Jud.

Wow. and I thought I was a jerk.

John.

He wasn't a jerk!

Jesse.

I was sorta a jerk. I didn't mean to be a jerk. I just wanted to push them –for them to...

Gilmer.

Feel?

Jesse.

Yeah, I guess.

Peggy.

My mom wanted me to “feel” too.

Jesse.

I'm... I'm sorry. And its true people have used Christianity for some terrible purposes... but that's true of just about every other religion, right?

Robin.

And then you did great things and became super cool and your parents tried to sever your wings?

Jesse.

No. My parents, in a surprising turn, decided to care about what I was doing... probably because this time, who I was hanging out with – my “community” would look bad on them. Figures.

Mom.

Jesus, Jesse! You can't hang out with those dangerous kids – we've raised you better than that.

Jesse.

Better than what?

Dad.

Better than crazy!

Jesse.

But I heard nothing of it, just grabbed my bible and ran out of the house.

Joanne..

Where'd you go?

Jesse.

Where do you think? My new home: church.

Joanne and others create the Church.

Church Person (Joanne-super funny character-Pastor like)

Jesse! God challenges us gives us choices... so glad you chose God!

Jesse.

The Church asked me to do things – and they accepted me with open arms.

#11- LEARN YOUR LESSONS WELL REPRISE

-Joanne does this version super funny – to lighten up the group!

I CAN SEE A SWATH OF SINNERS SETTIN' YONDER

AND THEY'RE ACTIN' LIKE A PACK OF FOOLS.

GAZING INTO SPACE, THEY LET THEIR MINDS ALL WANDER

'STEAD OF STUDYING THE GOOD LORD'S RULES.

YOU BETTER PAY ATTENTION,

BUILD YOUR COMPREHENSION

THERE'S GONNA BE A QUIZ AT YOUR ASCENSION.

NOT TO MENTION ANY THREAT OF HELL,

BUT IF YOU'RE SMART,

YOU'LL LEARN YOUR LESSONS WELL.

EVERY BRIGHT DESCRIPTION OF

THE PROMISED LAND MEANT
YOU CAN REACH IT IF YOU KEEP ALERT.
LEARNING EV'RY LINE IN EVERY LAST COMMANDMENT.
MAY NOT HELP YOU, BUT IT COULDN'T HURT.
FIRST YOU GOTTA READ 'EM
THEN YOU GOTTA HEED 'EM
YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU'RE GONNA NEED 'EM
JUST AS OLD ELIJAH SAID TO JEZEBEL,
YOU BETTER START,
TO LEARN YOUR LESSON WELL

Jesse.

Suddenly I had the parents I had been looking for. So I went deeper.

Sonia.

Deeper? This is the longest parable EVER.

Jeffrey

Please tell me there's at least another song coming up.

Jesse.

Actually, yes. So invigorated by my fight with my "family" I decided to take my crusade to the streets – to the gangs.

Johna.

I always wanted to take my crusades to the streets.

Jesse.

I did – and I saw some scary stuff -

Kids start shifting into a crowd on the street, watching Jesse,

Church kid /Jeffrey (yelling to crowd)

Beware Satan! Safe guard your entrance to heaven!

Jesse.

The kingdom of heaven is only open to the pure of heart!

Church kid -Sonia.

Turn back from your wicked ways!

Jesse.

Turn back!

Church kid Lana+Peggy.

Turn back!

Robin to Jesse

Seems there are a lot of frustrated kids looking for direction.

Church kid Joanne.

Turn back!

Jesse.

Turn back!

#12 – TURN BACK, O MAN (note: cut spoken text. This is now a song about “men” that destroy the earth).

SONIA

TURN BACK, O MAN, FORSWEAR THY FOOLISH WAYS.

OLD NOW IS EARTH, AND NONE MAY COUNT HER DAYS.

DA-DA-DA-DA-DA.

YET THOU, HER CHILD,

WHOSE HEADS IS CROWNED WITH FLAME,

STILL WILT NOT HEAR THINE INNER GOD PROCLAIM:

TURN BACK, O MAN

TURN BACK, O MAN

TURN BACK, O MAN

FORSWEAR THY FOOLISH WAYS

EARTH MIGHT BE FAIR,

AND ALL MEN GLAD AND WISE.

AGE AFTER THEIR TRAGIC EMPIRES RISE.

DA-DA-DA-DA-DA.

BUILT WHILE THEY DREAM,

AND IN THAT DREAMING WEEP:

WOULD MAN BUT WAKE FROM OUT HIS HAUNTED SLEEP.

TURN BACK, O MAN

TURN BACK , O MAN

TURN BACK, O MAN

FORSWEAR THY FOOLISH WAYS.

JESSE + JEFFERY and JOHNA

EARTH SHALL BE FAIR, AND ALL HER PEOPLE ONE;

NOT TILL THAT HOUR SHALL GOD'S WHOLE WILL BE DONE.

NOW, EVEN NOW, ONCE MORE FROM EARTH TO SKY

PEALS FORTH IN JOY, MAN'S OLD UNDAUNTED CRY:

EARTH SHALL BE FAIR, AND ALL HER PEOPLE ONE!

ALL

TURN BACK, O MAN,

FORSWEAR THEY FOOLISH WAYS.

OLD NOW IS EARTH, AND NONE MAY COUNT HER DAYS.

SONIA

DA-DA-DA-DA-DA.

ALL

YET THOU, HER CHILD,

WHOSE HEAD IS CROWNED WITH FLAME,

STILL WILT NOT HEAR THINE INNER GOD PROCLAIM:

TURN BACK, O MAN.

TURN BACK, O MAN.
TURN BACK, O MAN.

FORSWEAR THY FOOLISH WAYS.

Crowd Member. (Herb/Helena)
What about me?

Jesse.
Excuse me?

Crowd Member. (Herb/Helena)
What about me? Should I “beware my foolish ways?”

Jesse.
Um... what are your foolish ways?

Crowd Member. (Herb/Helena)
Well, not sure, let’s see: I have a 4.0 grade point average. I’ve never hurt anybody on purpose. I’m a vegetarian, which I think is okay. I work in homeless shelters, give most of my allowance to charity and have never believe in world peace.

Jesse.
Sounds... sounds good!

Crowd Member. (Helena)
And I’m gay.

A silence. Jesse doesn’t know what to say.

Crowd Member. (Helena)
I just was curious how foolish my ways are.

Jesse.
Um... uh... um...
I left. I had nothing to say so I left. I had no idea-

Suddenly, bells ring.

Kids.
Gotta go!

The kids start to disperse. Jess stays still, then yells after:

Jesse.
Helena!

Herb/Helena stops as the rest exit.

Helena.
What?

Jesse.
You... how'd you know that happened. With the kid.

Helena.
Just getting into the spirit.

Jesse.
I wasn't going to talk about that part.

Helena.
Why not?

Jesse.
Because... well, you would have had to have been there to know-

Helena.
I was there.

Jesse laughs.

Jesse. (yeah, right!)
You were there, back in-!

Herb/Helena.
Your home town? Where you came from. I was there.

Jesse takes this in.

Jesse.
Wow. Uh... not a lot of gay kids out of the closet in-

Helena.
-not too many. Well, now I'm here.

Jesse.
Wait. "Helena"? Your name is Hern/He lena! But... not that Helena! In... in the newspaper?

Helena.
The bridge?

Jesse.
On New Year's?

Helena.
I'll see you later, Jesse.

Helena smiles, knowingly, then exits.

Jesse.
Wait! Wait! It doesn't make sense!

The bells chime again. Jesse stands alone. Jesse looks up to the sky. Without beat to accompany him, he yells up:

Jesse.
What is going on here! God? GOD?

What?
What I want?
What?
What?
What I got?
What?
Stop!
Feel me drop this talk on this spot!
Hah!
Hah!
What I got?
What I got?
What I got?
It's not what I want!
What I want's what I want!

And what I want... is to be safe, Lord.
I was supposed to be safe here! I was... WHERE AM I?

Jud.
Who are you?

Jesse turns to see Jud, who has been watching?

Jesse.
Haven't I said enough?

Jud.

It's funny. I know all the answers and the only reason I didn't tell you was, well, I thought, after meeting you... that maybe I was wrong.

Jesse.

What rules? Do you know that I know Herb/Helena?

Peggy.

Yep. You learn stuff around here.

Kids start to appear.

Jesse.

What stuff?!

Sonia.

That no matter how different we are... we are united.

Jesse.

United by what?

Lana.

And that no matter what has passed, you are safe here.

Jesse.

United by what?!

Jeffrey.

Fate, Jesse.

Jesse.

Where are we?

Gilmer.

Hard to explain. Obviously. We find it's best to just let the new kid talk. Learn about him. Figure out why, exactly you showed up...

Jud.

Sing his songs.

Joanne.

Let things sink in.

Jesse.

Sink in?

John.

I just figured it out.

Jesse.

Figure what out? Sink in?

Jud.

Finish your story, Jesse.

Jesse.

Why?

Jud.

For us.

They all look at him.

Jud.

It's safe.

Jesse.

More... more of the same. I was on the front line –right there with kids from gangs who don't expect to live past high school –I yelled at a lot of people... I fought a good fight- but each time I lost something –a part of myself - I decided I needed to go back to the books... all the books... I was on my way to the library when-

Helena.

You were attacked.

******A movement section OF Jesse being attacked here***

Jesse.

I felt everything. And...

Gilmer runs and hugs Jesse. Jesse starts to cry.

Jesse.

And then. I came here. That is the whole entire story of me.

A silence.

Peggy.

Can I ask you a question, Jesse?

Jud.

It hasn't been long enough, Peggy.

Peggy.

I can't sing Christian songs all day, Jud.

Robin.

We sang your songs when you came, Peggy!

Jud.

Shut up!

Jesse.

What's going on?

Peggy.

Jesse? How'd you get here?

Jeffrey.

You don't have to answer that, man.

Jesse.

Why wouldn't I answer that? Like anyone else. I lived in one place and now I live here.
What's the big deal?

Kids laugh.

John.

I can't believe it.

Joanne

It really is true!

Jesse.

What's true?

Peggy.

It's all true, John.

Sonia

Don't be scared.

Jud.

Don't talk about things you don't understand, John!

**to be rewritten John.*

Jesse! I said the exact same thing when they asked me that! “I moved here. Like anyone else. I lived in one place and now I live here. What’s the big deal?”

Jeffrey.
So did I.

Gilmer.
Me too.

Sonia.
Exactly.

Peggy.
The journey to get here is more complicated than that, obviously. But... I can still remember... what “happened”. But then... there really was a light. I can remember...

Gilmer.
We all remember...

#14 - BY MY SIDE

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

CAN YOU TAKE ME WITH YOU?

FOR MY HAND IS COLD AND NEEDS WARMTH.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

FAR BEYOND WHERE THE HORIZON LIES,

WHERE THE HORIZON LIES,

AND THE LAND SKINS INTO MELLOW BLUENESS.

XXXXXX

O, PLEASE TAKE ME WITH YOU

LET ME SKIP THE ROAD WITH YOU

I CAN DARE MYSELF,

I CAN DARE MYSELF.

XXXXXX

O, PLEASE

LET ME SKIP THE ROAD WITH YOU

I CAN DARE MYSELF,

I CAN DARE.

I'LL PUT A PEBBLE IN MY SHOE
AND WATCH ME WALK,

I'LL PUT A PEBBLE IN MY SHOE,
WATCH ME WALK

Xxxxxx

I CAN WALK AND WALK

I CAN WALK.

I SHALL CALL THE PEBBLE DARE.

I SHALL CALL THE PEBBLE DARE.
xxxxxxx

xxxxxxx

WE WILL TALK

WE WILL TALK

TOGETHER

+ALL

ABOUT WALKING.

ABOUT WALKING

DARE SHALL BE CARRIED

ALL

AND WHEN WE BOTH HAVE HAD ENOUGH,

Xxxxxxxx

I WILL TAKE HIM FROM MY SHOE, SINGING:

ALL

"MEET YOUR NEW ROAD."

Xxxxxxxx

THEN I'LL TAKE YOUR HAND,

XXXXXXXXXX

group

FIN'LLY GLAD

FINALLY GLAD

THAT YOU ARE HERE,

THAT YOU ARE HERE

BY MY SIDE,

BY MY SIDE,

BY MY SIDE,

BY MY SIDE,

BY MY SIDE,

BY MY SIDE,

BY MY SIDE,

THAT YOU ARE HERE

BY MY SIDE,

BY MY SIDE

BY MY SIDE.

Robin. And When Gilmer's Mom got in that car that night her mother got a ride from a friend who wasn't "a designated driver" with her daughter in the back seat.

Gilmer.

And then I came here.

Jud.

Get it?

Jesse.

I don't get it.

Joanne

I think you do.

John.

A chance...

Gilmer.

Mom?

Jeffrey.

A hub...

Sonia.

All those years in and out of the hospital.

Gilmer.

Mom?

Jesse.

Everyone's talking nonsense.

Lana.

Where we are is beautiful...

Robin.

A hub...

Sonia.

A chance to-

Jud.

You'll have to listen to some stories, Jesse.

Joanne.

There is a beautiful future.

Peggy.

A super rockin' time to come.

Sonia.

Peace.

Gilmer.

Mommy!

Jesse.

STOP IT!

A silence, then:

Herb/Helena.

I came out to my entire family on Christmas day. “I’m gay!” A present to myself, I said. I couldn’t live in hiding anymore, Jesse. My parents? They cried... as they through me out of the only home I’d ever known. But how could they let me live on in hiding? How would anyone let their child do that? I would not go on living in hiding. I spent New Year’ Eve on a bridge. New Year’s day I was here.

Robin.

They’re still looking for you, Herb/Helena.

Herb/Helena.

When I’m ready. I’ll be back. Just like you.

Jud.

You aren’t a prophet, Jesse.

Jesse.

What. What am I?

Robin.

A child.

Helena and Jeffrey.

One of us.

Sonia.

One of us.

Helena.

It’s nice to belong. It’s nice to be forced to listen. Given a chance...

They all stare at Jesse.

Jesse. –do gooder/front – do what – gang/

I always thought I was protected by God – I did Gods work –I went to Church every Sunday. My problem is I don’t know why those kids beat me up so badly. I was only trying to help them. What was the purpose?

Jesse starts to cry deeply.

Jesse.

Why didn’t they stop?

Jud.

Jesse. This is only a hub. You can go back... only when you are ready.

Jesse looks around to nothing but love.

Jesse.

It's nothing like what I expected.

Joanne.

What did you expect?

Jesse.

I guess... something a little

Kids laugh.

Jud.

It will always work this way here.

Robin

You will come because you need to come.

Helena/Herb

You will leave when you are ready to leave.

Jud

You'll know your ready when you've accepted everyone you've met.

Jesse looks around.

Jesse.

When did you get here, Jud?

Jud.

Well, it's a long story.

Jesse

I want to know

All look at Jud.

Jud.

Well... I got here after... I betrayed a dear, dear friend. For money.

Jesse.

For money.

Jude.

Jesse trust that you are safe. That you are here because there is a city inside you. A city in each of us...A city of all types of beliefs and religions – a city that has been through war. Take the time to rebuild... all the time you need.

Song– BEAUTIFUL CITY – all –full company
a full group song to be worked with Phil. Lots of company echo and parts not written

W

Out of the ruins and rubble
Out of the smoke
Out of our night of struggle
+ Johna: Can we see a ray of hope?

Herb/Helena/Johna

One pale thin ray reaching for the day

+ Jesse We can build a beautiful city

Herb/Helena/Johna/Jesse

Yes, we can; Yes, we can

+JUDE

We can build a beautiful city
Not a city of angels
But we can build a city of man

Peggy/Lana We may not reach the ending

Jesse and Jude But we can start –group 1/2 we can start

Johna/Herb/Gilmer Slowly but truly mending

ALL: split group: -echo throughout

Brick by brick, ½ *Brick by brick,*

heart by heart, ½ *heart by heart*

Now, maybe now etc

We start learning how ½

We start learning how we start learning how

We can build echo a beautiful city

Yes, we can; Yes, we can

We can build a beautiful city

Not a city of angels

But we can build a city of man

Sonia: oh yeah yeah...When your trust is all but shattered

Jeffrey/Lana When your faith is all but killed

Robin + Jesse You can give up, bitter and battered
Jude/Jeffrey/Joanne/Gilmer

Or you can slowly start to build

All: We can build a beautiful city

Yes, we can; Yes, we can

We can build a beautiful city

Not a city of angels

But finally a city of man.

We Can build a beautiful city –yes we can –(continue.....)

At end, bells ring.

Jesse.

Not knowing is true knowledge.

Presuming to know is a disease.

First realize that you are sick

Then you can move toward health.

Be your own physician.

Heal yourself of all knowing

Thus you are truly whole.

Jesse.

I'm coming home.

Bells start to ring.

Jesse.

I am.

Jud.

I am.

Joanne.

I am.

Jeffrey.

I am.

Lana.

I am.

John.

I am.

Sonia.

I am.

Herb/Helena.

I am.

Peggy.

I am.

Gilmer.

I am.

Robin

I am

All.

We are.

It grows and grows. Beautiful. Jesse smiles.

Fade to black.

END OF SHOW.

CURTAIN CALL: # 16 DAY BY DAY REPRISE