

Daily Dramas



DAILY DRAMAS

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USING THESE DRAMAS

To the people who attend your Wilderness Escape VBS, these daily dramas will appear to happen spontaneously. That helps everyone feel like they're watching a real-life conversation, argument, or celebration right in the middle of camp! Wait until a crowd has gathered before launching into the actual script, and speak loudly so everyone can hear you.

If your drama is scheduled to happen in the Israelite Camp time, you'll need to repeat the drama twice, since only half of the participants are there at once. Connect with your VBS Director on specific times.

Thanks for bringing the Bible to life at Wilderness Escape!



DAY 1

Bible Point: God is with us, so...*trust God!*

THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

Cast

- ♦ **Zilpah** (pronounced "ZILL-puh")—a woman
- ♦ **Ephraim** (pronounced "EE-frame")—Zilpah's teenage son
- ♦ **Moses**—You'll be leading Tribes through an interactive experience of today's Bible story when they come to Moses' Tent. But during this brief drama, you don't need to tell the entire story. Think of it as more of a "teaser."

Props

- ♦ In addition to Bible-times costumes, you'll need a few baskets of cloth for Zilpah to carry. Moses should carry a staff.



Drawing a Crowd

(Shortly after the Opening Celebration begins, Zilpah will enter with her baskets. Just be sure to connect with the Celebration Leader ahead of time to identify an appropriate moment for this drama. Although your crowd will already be gathered, take about 30 seconds to establish that this is a drama and people need to listen.)

Zilpah: Ephraim! Ephraim? Are you here? Oh, where is that boy? *(Points to another teenager or young man.)* Weren't you and Ephraim chasing that donkey on the other side of the river? No? *(Looks around.)* He must be here somewhere!

(Ephraim enters from the opposite side of the room.)

Ephraim: Mother? What are you shouting for? *(Embarrassed, like a typical teenager.)* You don't have to call the entire encampment!

Zilpah: *(Drops her basket and runs to hug Ephraim, relieved.)* Ephraim, my baby boy! There you are! Oh, I was so worried when I lost track of you. *(Scolding)* Why didn't you stay near me?

Ephraim: *(Points offstage.)* Mother...please! I didn't want to miss all the excitement. Mother, we're free! We're finally free from the Egyptians! *(Jumps up and whoops loudly.)*

Zilpah: I know, but with our toes in the Red Sea and the Egyptian army breathing down our backs...I didn't think we'd make it. I thought for sure that Moses had led us out here to die.

Ephraim: *(Excitedly)* Did you see it, Mother? *(Tells the story with animated motions.)* The wind blew all night, and then the water just *(motioning with hands apart)* parted...and dried up in the middle. *(Touches the ground.)* I actually touched the ground as we walked through...it was as dry as Grandma Rachel's bread!

(Makes a face at the thought of eating Grandma Rachel's dry bread, then speaks to a member of the crowd.) You've had her bread, you know what I'm talking about...just like dust in your mouth and—

Zilpah: *(Interrupts.)* Ephraim—hundreds of Egyptian chariots were right behind you! I was so worried...and after we'd crossed, when Moses stretched out his hand over the water and the waters rushed back in, well, I thought you'd been drowned! *(Like a mother)* You know, you've never been a very good swimmer—

Ephraim: *(Holds Zilpah's shoulders.)* Mother, God was with us through flies and frogs and boils. He was in our home when the angel of death passed over. And he was here, making a way for us to escape the Egyptians.

Moses: *(Enters the group.)* Well, at least most of them.

**Ephraim
and**

Zilpah: *(Turning, exclaiming together)* Moses!

Zilpah: *(Looks around nervously, collecting her basket.)* What do you mean... "most" of the Egyptians?

Moses: *(Motions toward the crowd.)* Well, if you look around closely, you'll see that some of them fled Pharaoh along with us.

(To the crowd) A wise move, if you ask me. *(To Zilpah)* But don't worry, Zilpah—they're not your slave drivers anymore. *(Slowly)* You are free.

Ephraim: *(Trying to take Moses' staff)* Moses...how did you do that...that thing with your staff and the water and the wind—

Moses: As you said, Ephraim, God was with us, and we can trust him. *(Looks around at the crowd.)* Now, if I heard correctly, there's a big celebration taking place somewhere around here. What happened to all that music?

Zilpah: *(To the crowd)* You all can dance and celebrate—I'm going to find my sister and my mother and my father. We're free! *(Tosses her basket into the air and runs away joyfully.)*

Ephraim: *(Going after Zilpah)* Parents are so embarrassing!

(Moses can join the Celebration Leader in leading another song and dance.)



DAY 2

Bible Point: God gives us what we need,
so...trust God!

Daily Bread

Cast

♦ **Leah** (pronounced
"LEE-uh")

♦ **Tikva** (pronounced
"TIHK-vuh")

Props

♦ Both women need to wear Bible-times costumes. You'll also need a small clay jar or pitcher that will be your "manna jars."



Drawing a Crowd

(About 15 minutes after the Israelite Camp "opens," Leah makes her entrance. Plan for most of the drama to take place near the center of Camp.)

Leah: Tikva! (Enters the Israelite Camp carrying the manna jar and goes from tent to tent, looking for Tikva.) Tikva!

(To people in the Camp) Has anybody seen Tikva? She said she was coming to make butter—but that was an hour ago! Wait 'til I get my hands on her! Tikva! Are you hiding in here? You knew I'd come after you!

(After a crowd has gathered, Tikva enters.)

Tikva: Leah! I'm over here!

Leah: (Accusingly) There you are! You would try to hide from me.

Tikva: (Surprised) Hide from you? What are you talking about? I just came down to gather some water. What's wrong?

Leah: (Shoves the open manna jar under Tikva's nose.) This is what's wrong!

Tikva: (Sniffs the open jar and makes a gagging noise.) Oh, Leah! What is that? That can't be—

Leah: The manna you so kindly offered to gather for me yesterday? Some friend! (Points toward the Camel Herder Tent.) But it smells like you gathered something from the camels to put in our manna jar. That's not a nice trick, Tikva.

HOLY LAND HINT

This short drama simply reinforces the Bible story that Moses leads Tribes in during Moses' Tent. The first group you perform for will not have visited Moses, so you'll give them a hint about what's coming!

Tikva: *(Confused)* A trick? Yesterday's manna? *(Finally begins to understand.)* But Leah, didn't you hear Moses? He told us that God said to only gather enough manna for one day. *(Holds up one finger.)* You can't save it or...*(motioning toward manna jar)* look what happens. I gathered that for you yesterday—your family was supposed to eat it then.

Leah: So I have to gather this...this whatever-it-is every single day?

Tikva: *(Nods.)* That's what God said. Isn't it incredible how he gave us this, well, amazing stuff to eat? It's new every morning, and *(motioning around)* there's plenty of it.

Leah: *(Hesitantly)* Well, I guess God finally heard us asking for food.

Tikva: Asking? *Complaining* is more like it! I haven't heard people grumble that much since Pharaoh asked for his palace to be two stories taller! *(Motions up with her hand and looks up, as if indicating Pharaoh's tall palace.)* Yes, God heard us all right. And he gave us what we needed. Leah, you can trust God!

Leah: *(A bit embarrassed)* Well, I suppose I owe you an apology. That was kind of you to gather some manna for us. *(Looks into her manna jar.)* I should probably get rid of this, though. Peeyew!

Tikva: *(Starts to walk offstage, hugging Leah.)* Let's dump it way outside the encampment. That old stuff really smells!

(The women exit.)



DAY 3

Bible Point: God gives us strength, so...
trust God!

BATTLE AHEAD

Cast

- ♦ **Zerah** (pronounced "ZAIR-uh")—a young man
- ♦ **Jemuel** (pronounced "JEM-you-ell")—a young man
- ♦ **Hadara** (pronounced "huh-DAHR-uh")—an older woman

Props

- ♦ You'll need a Bible-times costume for each person, as well as a simple toy sword and shield for Zerah and Jemuel.



Drawing a Crowd

(Begin the drama about 5 minutes before Tribes are scheduled to end their time in the Israelite Camp. Zerah and Jemuel enter, play sword-fighting and shouting loudly.)

Zerah: Take that! And that! Ha ha! We're not your slaves anymore!

Jemuel: Oh, you'll pay for that!

Zerah: Only if you can catch me!

(The young men chase each other and play fight as a crowd gathers. Then Hadara enters and stops them in their tracks.)

Hadara: *(Angrily)* What are you foolish boys doing with those swords? Zerah, Jemuel—you're going to hurt each other *(looking around)* or someone else!

Zerah: *(Excited and cocky)* We're getting ready for battle. Why, if those old Egyptians come looking for us—

Jemuel: They don't stand a chance!

(Hadara snatches the swords away.)

Hadara: Foolish, foolish boys! Haven't you heard? Battle may be upon us before we know it...and *not* from the Egyptians!

Jemuel: *(Looking a bit frightened)* Someone else is after us?

Hadara: *(Nodding)* The Amalekites!

Zerah: *(Unimpressed)* Aw, they're just a band of raiders.

Hadara: And we're just a band of escaped slaves. What do we know about battle? Zerah, your father is an artisan. Jemuel, your father is a camel herder! How will they protect us?

Zerah: *(Putting his arm around Jemuel)* But we can fight!

Hadara: A real battle will be very different than running around with these. *(Hands the "weapons" back to the young men.)* Don't you see? Everyone is so happy to be free from Egypt...but we're not safe out here. Anyone could attack us. Anyone could take us as their slaves...and we may be worse off than before.

Jemuel: *(Pointing toward Moses' Tent)* But Moses says God will give us strength.

Zerah: He says we should trust God! *(Turns to the crowd.)* What do you think? Will God help us here in the wilderness...or leave us to our enemies?

(The young men listen to responses from the crowd.)

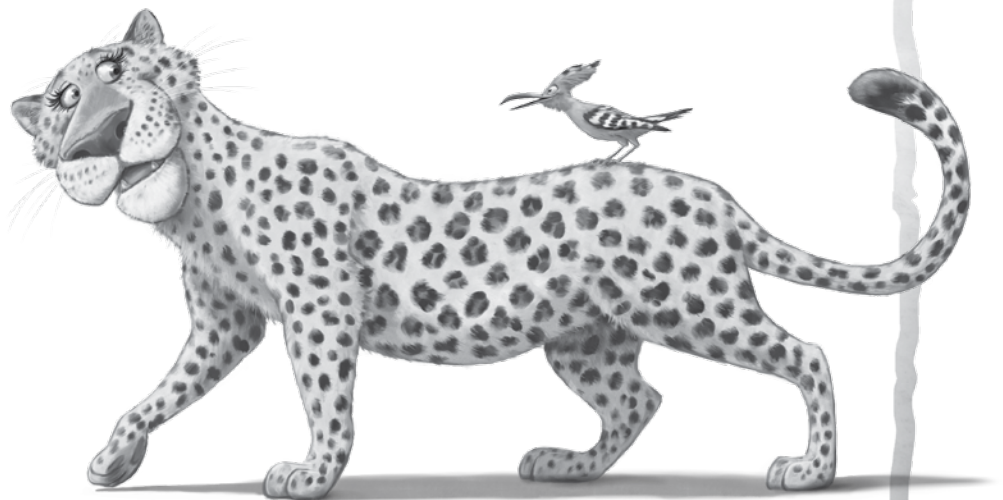
Hadara: *(Shaking her head)* I don't know. I didn't like being a slave, but at least I knew what was happening next.

Jemuel: Well, I'm not afraid. I know that God is mighty—I've seen what he's done.

Zerah: Me too! In fact, I want to ask Moses if he needs anyone else in his new army. Let's go, Jemuel!

(Both exit excitedly.)

Hadara: *(Shaking her head as she leaves)* I hope they're right...



DAY 4

Bible Point: God saves us, so...*trust* God!

Big Brother

Cast

♦ **Abigail**—a preteen or young teenage girl

♦ **Celebration Leader**

Props

♦ You'll need a Bible-times costume for Abigail.

HOLY LAND HINT

Choose the youngest girl you can to be Abigail, to help kids identify with her.



Drawing a Crowd

(Shortly after the Opening Celebration begins, Abigail will enter. Be sure to connect with the Celebration Leader ahead of time to identify an appropriate moment for this brief drama. Although your crowd will already be gathered, take about 30 seconds to establish that this is a drama and people need to listen.)

(Abigail walks through the crowd, asking everyone if they've seen her brother Gideon.)

Celebration

Leader: Excuse me? Abigail? Can I help you?

Abigail: *(Worried)* Yes, I'm searching for my brother, Gideon. *(To someone in the crowd)* Have you seen him? He's about *(holding her hand up)* this tall, brown hair...*(somewhat under her breath)* and usually up to some kind of mischief!

Celebration

Leader: Uh-oh. Is he in trouble again?

Abigail: *(Sighs.)* No, I just worry about him.

Celebration

Leader: Worry? Why? I've seen Gideon, and the only thing you need to worry about is that the rope maker *(pointing toward the rope maker's tent)* finds out that Gideon was the one making knots in all his rope!

Abigail: It's just that he's my big brother...and, well, after what happened back in Egypt, I think about what it would be like if he was *(pausing sadly)* gone.

Celebration

Leader: Ahhh, I see. *(Motions toward crowd.)* Our friends here haven't heard about what happened that night in Egypt—I'm pretty sure Moses will have to fill them in. *(Hugs Abigail.)* But Abigail, you have to stop worrying like that. God saved his people—you can trust him!

Abigail: You know, I keep hearing all these new friends say that, but it's still hard for me. We were slaves for so long! I was born a slave, my mother was a slave, my grandmother was a slave...I'm not sure what it's even *like* to be free!

Celebration

Leader: But God has provided for us every step of the way! He saved us during that dark night in Egypt. *(To crowd)* Can you all remind Abigail that she can trust God? *(Takes responses from crowd.)*

Abigail: I know...but when I remember what happened, I just want to give my big brother an extra hug.

Celebration

Leader: *(Smiles.)* I can understand that. Have you checked the camp area? *(Motions toward the Israelite Camp.)* I think I saw him sneaking samples from the bakery a while ago. Or maybe he's playing games...that's where *these* kids like to go!

Abigail: *(Starts toward the Fun & Games area.)* I'll go right now! Thanks, [name of Celebration Leader]!

(Exits, calling) Gideon! Gideon!



DAY 5

Bible Point: God guides us, so...
trust God!

WHERE'S MOSES?

Cast

- ♦ **Rafaya** (pronounced "ruh-FYE-uh")—a man
- ♦ **Shira** (pronounced "SHEER-uh")—a woman

Props

- ♦ You'll need a Bible-times costume for each person.



Drawing a Crowd

(Rafaya enters the Israelite Camp right after Tribes have begun their time there. He's searching for Moses. Rafaya can go from tent to tent, asking "Have you seen Moses?" or "I thought you were with Moses yesterday." Then Rafaya should begin to shout.)

Rafaya: Moses! Moses! *(Asks someone in the crowd)* Isn't he back yet? Moses!

(Shira enters and tries to get Rafaya to calm down.)

Shira: Rafaya! What are you shouting about? Moses may be old, but he's not deaf!

Rafaya: *(Angrily)* I want to talk to him about this place he's brought us to.

Shira: Moses is up on Mount Sinai *(motioning upward)*, meeting with God. You've seen the smoke. You've heard the thunder. You know that God is giving Moses instructions for us.

Rafaya: *(Pacing angrily)* He's been up there for days...weeks! What if Moses has secretly left us? What if he led us out here and has given up and gone back to Egypt?

Shira: *(Laughs.)* Moses wouldn't do *that*! God must have a lot to tell him. *(Excitedly)* We're a new nation, Rafaya. God will guide us.

Rafaya: *(Scoffs.)* A nation? A nation of wanderers. Shira, we're living like peasants!

Shira: Rafaya, what did you eat this morning?

Rafaya: *(Annoyed)* Manna...of course. That's all there is out here.

Shira: And where did you get the water to wash it down with?

Rafaya: *(Points offstage.)* From that spring out of the rock. Waaaay outside camp, of course.

Shira: And tell me about that battle with the Amalekites.

Rafaya: We *finally* won, with Joshua's leadership.

Shira: *(Throws arms up in aggravation.)* Joshua? Are you kidding? God has guided us this entire time! And he'll continue to show us the way. *(Points offstage, toward the "mountain.")* That smoke isn't from a fire. And the ground has been shaking—it's not from Pharaoh's chariots!

Rafaya: That's *your* story. Moses has been gone for about a month, and I'm getting annoyed. Where are we going to go? What are we going to do?

Shira: *(To someone in the crowd)* Can you believe him? *(To Rafaya)* Rafaya, I'm going to roast a nice quail and sit in my tent and wait for Moses to come back from the mountain. *(Turns to leave.)*

Rafaya: Well...enjoy your little barbecue. *(Mumbles to himself as he stomps away.)* I'm going to go find some nice...manna to toast. Again. I just hope Moses comes back.

(Exits in the opposite direction from Shira.)

