

FAMOUS FAMILY

[Scooter walks on stage wearing a wild, colorful outfit.]

Scooter: [pulls out a pocket mirror and admires himself] Wow! I look good!

Beth: Hey, Scooter! [sees Scooter's crazy outfit] Whoa! What happened to you?

Scooter: Hi, Beth! What do you mean "what happened?"

Beth: Um, well, your outfit is ... INTERESTING. I don't really have the words to describe it.

Scooter: [strikes a silly pose] That's because it's so awesome!!!

Beth: What happened to your regular clothes? I think they looked great.

Scooter: [frowns] Well, no one ever noticed me because my clothes were boring.

Beth: Scooter, you don't have to wear crazy clothes for people to notice you.

Scooter: I don't?

Beth: No, people notice you because you're Scooter. You have a kind heart and a big smile.

Scooter: Sometimes I don't feel like ANYONE notices me. Mom is always busy with my baby brother, Huey, and my dad has to work a lot.

Beth: Everyone feels unnoticed sometimes, but there's someone who ALWAYS notices you.

Scooter: Who?

Beth: The same someone who created the land and the oceans and the distant galaxies!

Scooter: Wow! That sounds like a really important someone!

Beth: He is! God created the land and the oceans and the galaxies. And he created you and me, too! People are his most special creations and he always notices us. He even wants to be our friend!

Scooter: I never thought about that before. I guess I am special just being Scooter. I don't have to wear these crazy clothes for someone to notice me.

Beth: No way! But if you keep wearing them, I know someone who WILL notice you ...

Scooter: Who?

Beth: The circus!

[Both laugh and exit.]

SOME PROMISE

[Scooter walks on stage and starts doing crazy exercises as if he's watching an exercise video.]

Scooter: And one, and two, and kick, and two ...

Beth: [enters] Hi, Scooter! What are you doing?

Scooter: And three, and four, and lift, and kick ... [panting] Oh, hang on just a minute, Beth. I'm EXERCISING!

[Beth stands aside and watches Scooter.]

Scooter: And turn around, and leap, and OW... [Scooter falls down then scrambles up on shaky legs.] Don't worry, Beth, I'm OK!

Beth: Are you sure? That doesn't seem safe.

Scooter: Yeah, I'm fine. I was just doing my exercises.

Beth: Well, exercise is good.

Scooter: I know! And get this, Beth. The box of the Super Kickboxer Extreme DVD says you'll have HUGE muscles after just ONE week of working out.

Beth: Hmm.

Scooter: This is my fourth workout, so I'm going to have HUGE muscles in ... [looks at watch or counts on fingers] THREE days! That is going to be SO cool. I'll look like a bodybuilder [strikes a muscle pose].

Beth: Scooter, you know you can't always believe the promises you read on boxes. The commercial for the shampoo I use shows this girl with long, flowing hair, but my hair won't ever look like that!

Scooter: I'm not going to have huge muscles? [lip quivers]

Beth: Well, you'll get in shape, but you have to think about WHO is making the promise before you believe it.

Scooter: What do you mean?

Beth: If I promised you something, would you believe me?

Scooter: Of course! You're my friend, and if you make a promise you keep it.

Beth: Yeah. You trust me because I'm your friend. But even I can't always keep my promise. Like when I promised you I'd lend you that game, but I accidentally gave it to my cousin.

Scooter: Oh, yeah. I got stuck playing Candy Land with my sister—over and over and over ... [becoming melodramatic] No more Lollipop Princess, I beg you!

Beth: I know. I'm sorry. I didn't keep my promise because I'm human and I make mistakes. But did you know there's someone who NEVER breaks a single promise?

Scooter: Really?

Beth: Yeah! God cannot break a promise; it's impossible. So when he tells you something in his Word, you can count on it! Like when he says, "I will never leave you." You can know for sure he's always with you.

Scooter: That's awesome. [pauses] So, is there anything in the Bible about getting bigger muscles?

[Both smile and exit.]

FORWARD MARCH

[Scooter and Beth walk on stage wearing backpacks and hiking gear.]

Scooter: Hut, two, three, four ... hut, two, three, four ... company, halt! Isn't hiking the best, Beth?

Beth: [stops and puts hands on upper legs to rest] Um, yeah. I love to hike, Scooter. But I'm tired! We've been hiking for hours. Are you sure you know where we're going?

Scooter: Of course I do! We're going to the lake.

Beth: [drinks from a water bottle] I thought it was only half an hour to the lake.

Scooter: That's if you follow the map.

Beth: We're not following a map?!

Scooter: Nope! We're wild! We're free!

Beth: We're lost!

Scooter: No, we're not. I'm an expert tracker and woodsman ... [looks to the side and points sheepishly] Plus, that's the sign we started at ...

Beth: SCOOTER!

Scooter: I'm sorry! I just thought it would be better if we found our own way instead of following the map. [in booming radio voice] Like REAL ADVENTURERS.

Beth: Better? I'm hot and sweaty and tired and cranky and there's NO LAKE in sight.

Scooter: I guess my idea wasn't so great.

Beth: Scooter, there's a reason someone made the map. It's to show you the BEST WAY to the lake.

Scooter: [pulls bag out of his backpack] We can share a snack and start over. If we follow the map, we'll be at the lake in 30 minutes!

Beth: [takes bag] OK. This reminds me of something: the Bible says God knows the best plan for our life ... even when we don't.

Scooter: That's cool. So I guess knowing God is kind of like having the map.

Beth: Yeah. I guess so.

Scooter: Well, Beth, snack time is over! A-TEN-tion! Hut, two, three, four. [both start marching off stage] Hut, two, three, four. Forward, march!

Beth: Here we go again.

[Both exit.]

LOOKOUT

[Beth backs slightly onto stage looking up.]

Beth: Scooter! What are you doing up in that tree?

Scooter: [voice offstage] I'm surveying the land!

Beth: I'm not sure that's such a good idea ...

[big crash/thump off stage. Beth's eyes move downward, tracking Scooter's imaginary offstage fall.]

Scooter: [voice offstage] I'm OK Beth! The branches broke my fall. [stumbles on stage with twigs/branches in hair] I am NOT doing that again.

Beth: Good! Climbing trees is dangerous.

Scooter: [brushing himself off] I know that now. [looks up in tree] That bird was pretty mad.

Beth: [picks branches out of Scooter's hair] What were you doing anyway?

Scooter: I just wanted to find the best lookout spot EVER so I could see EVERYTHING!

Beth: It is fun to have a good view. My family went to the Grand Canyon last year and ...

Scooter: Ooo, ooo, let me guess! It was GRAND! [makes a sweeping motion]

Beth: Yes, it was. And it felt like you could see everything from up there.

Scooter: That must have been a great view.

Beth: It sure was. But you know, Scooter, God has the best view.

Scooter: Really?

Beth: Yeah. He really can see EVERYTHING. And the cool part is, he sees us and takes care of us.

Scooter: Is he ALWAYS watching?

Beth: Yep. He doesn't even stop to sleep.

Scooter: Good thing, because I need A LOT of looking after.

Beth: You sure do!

[both start to exit]

Scooter: You know, Beth, I could give you some excellent tree-climbing tips ...

[Both exit.]

NO RULES

[Scooter enters with a board game or card game and begins to take it out on a table or the floor.]

Beth: [enters] Hi, Scooter!

Scooter: Hey, Beth! Want to play a game?

Beth: Sure, I love games! You better watch out, though. I'm pretty good. I beat my Uncle Harry in our annual Yahtzee tournament. [laces fingers in a crack-knuckles fashion]

[Beth sits down.]

Beth: So, how do we play?

Scooter: However you want.

Beth: What do you mean? What are the rules?

Scooter: No rules. Just do whatever you want.

Beth: OK ... [Beth picks up cards or moves a game piece.]

Scooter: Checkmate! I win.

Beth: Hey! You said there weren't any rules.

Scooter: There aren't. So I win. [grins]

Beth: Wait a minute ...

[Beth and Scooter deal cards or reset game pieces. Then they just stare at the board.]

Beth: This game isn't very much fun.

Scooter: I noticed. I wonder what could be wrong. I have all the pieces, and you're here to play with me. But something seems to be missing ... [scratches head]

Beth: The rules?

Scooter: I've got it! The RULES!

Beth: You know, Scooter, there are lots of things in life that aren't good without any rules.

Scooter: Like Candy Land? Parcheesi? Croquet?

Beth: Yeah, those things ... plus, life.

Scooter: The game of Life?

Beth: No, YOUR life. And mine. God gives us some rules in the Bible and when we follow them, life is a lot more fun.

Scooter: Aren't rules bad?

Beth: No, way! They keep us safe and allow us to have fun.

Scooter: I never thought of it that way. [pulls out rule sheet] Want to play the REAL game now?

Beth: I thought you'd never ask!

[End scene.]

I SPY

[Scooter enters stealth style. He can be wearing a trench coat, a hat, and spy glasses. He hums the “Mission Impossible” theme song or another spy tune. He puts his back against the wall and slides across the room.]

Beth: [enters] Hi, Scooter!

Scooter: *Shhhhh!*

Beth: [quietly] Oh, sorry. What are you doing?

Scooter: I’m spying.

Beth: Spying? On who?

Scooter: More like WHAT.

Beth: OK, WHAT are you spying on?

Scooter: I’m securing the premises, Beth!

Beth: Your basement?

Scooter: This is no basement. It’s a TOP-SECRET, underground storage facility.

Beth: Oh, I see.

Scooter: Only a spy like me can make sure it’s safe for the others to come in.

Beth: The others?

Scooter: Beth, work with me here.

Beth: OK, Double 0-17. I’ll take this side of the base ... underground storage facility. And you take the other.

Scooter: Good thinking, Agent 49.

Beth: [moving stealthlike] Do you know there were spies in the Bible? Twelve of them. They went into the land God had promised the Israelites to check it out.

Scooter: That must have been one AWESOME top-secret mission.

Beth: Yeah. Except they got scared and told the people they shouldn't obey God and go into the land.

Scooter: It's guys like that, that give us spies a bad name! Those guys were more like double-agents.

Beth: Yeah, but two of them—Joshua and Caleb—believed God.

Scooter: They knew with God, the mission is ALWAYS possible.

Beth: That's right, Double 0-17.

Scooter: Top-secret, underground facility secured, Agent 49! My stomach tells me it's time to move on to the refrigerator ... I mean the cold rations containment area.

Beth: Right behind you!

[Both exit in stealth mode.]

BY MYSELF

[Scooter is wrapping a gift and is having trouble with the ribbon.]

Scooter: This is harder than I thought.

Beth: [enters] Hey, Scooter! Need a hand?

Scooter: Um, no thanks Beth, that's OK.

[Scooter has finger on center of ribbon and is trying to tie a bow but can't. Beth watches.]

Beth: Are you SURE you don't need some help?

Scooter: Yeah. [Scooter tries to grab ribbon with toes and all kinds of silly things.]
Man, this is hard work!

Beth: I COULD help you, you know.

Scooter: Beth, I have to do it by myself!

Beth: You don't always have to do everything by yourself, Scooter. God gives us other people to help us. Remember that time you helped me when I fell off my bike?

Scooter: Oh, yeah! Your knee looked AWESOME! I mean, it was AWFUL!

Beth: But I really needed your help. You pushed my bike home for me and got me a Band-Aid.

Scooter: I guess I did help you that day.

Beth: You sure did! And now I can help you with that package.

Scooter: You can't!

Beth: Why not?

Scooter: [tries one more time very unsuccessfully] OK, I guess I need help.

[Beth puts finger on bow, and Scooter ties.]

Beth: See, that wasn't so bad.

Scooter: Thanks for your help.

Beth: You're welcome. It's beautiful!

Scooter: I'm glad you think so.

[Scooter extends present to Beth.]

Scooter: Happy Birthday, Beth!

[Beth takes present and both exit.]

BIG MISTAKE

[Scooter enters, highly agitated.]

Scooter: This is not good! Not good!

Beth: [enters] Hey, Scooter!

Scooter: [acting normal] Oh, hi, Beth.

Beth: Hey, I stopped by because I need my book back. The one about planets. My uncle gave it to me, so it's kind of important to me.

Scooter: Um, about that ... Beth, I have some good news and some bad news.

Beth: What's the good news?

Scooter: I now know that Pluto is NOT a planet.

Beth: That's good. What's the bad news?

Scooter: [takes a deep breath and then blurts answer] Molly ate your book.
[covers eyes] I am so sorry! I guess she doesn't know the difference between planets and Purina.

Beth: Your dog ate my book?! How bad is it?

Scooter: Well, the parts on Jupiter, Mars, and Neptune are completely gone and Venus has a hole.

Beth: That bad, huh?

Scooter: I'm afraid so. I'm sorry. I left it on the floor beside my bed. I should have put it up in the bookshelf. [kneels down and takes Beth's arms] Can you ever forgive me? I'll never borrow one of your books again! I'm such a bad friend.

Beth: No, you're not. Everyone makes mistakes, Scooter. That doesn't make you a bad person.

Scooter: It doesn't?

Beth: No way! There was this guy Samson in the Bible. And he made quite a few mistakes, but he ended up doing amazing things for God.

Scooter: Whoa. That's pretty cool.

Beth: Yeah, no matter how many mistakes you make, God always gives you another chance. I know you didn't hurt my book on purpose.

Scooter: I sure didn't.

Beth: Don't worry. I can always get another one and ask my uncle to sign it. But you better keep your books away from Molly. I've heard "the dog ate my homework," but this is a new one.

Scooter: Maybe she just likes the ones about space ...

[Both begin walking off stage.]

Beth: Or Pluto!

[Both laugh and exit.]

CREATURE KINDNESS

[Scooter enters, cupping something in his hand. He is miming holding a spider.]

Scooter: Phew! That was a close one, little guy! Good thing Mom didn't see you or you could have ended up squished or drowned.

Beth: [enters] Hey, Scooter!

Scooter: [turns quickly] Look at the spider I saved!

Beth: [screams and jumps back] I'm scared of spiders!

Scooter: Oh, sorry, Beth. But Mr. Lottsalegs won't hurt you. He's just a harmless Daddy Longlegs. I found him in my closet. I wanted to adopt him, but Mom would never agree.

Beth: I don't blame her!

Scooter: So I did the next best thing: I'm returning him to his natural habitat [pause] the yard.

Beth: Well, that's very kind of you. God likes it when we're kind to his creatures.

Scooter: [leans down, releases spider, and waves] Goodbye, Mr. Lottsalegs. I'll miss you. Have a wonderful life!

Beth: Scooter, that reminds me of how God kindly takes care of us. He helps us, too.

Scooter: He sure does! Maybe that's why he likes it when we're kind to others.

Beth: Like when you raked Mrs. Michaelson's yard. She couldn't do anything for you, but you were kind to her anyway.

Scooter: She did give me some delicious chocolate, chocolate, chocolate chip cookies. Mmm. Those were the best cookies I ever had. Hey, Beth, I have a great idea!

Beth: What is it?

Scooter: Maybe we can make a list of all the people we can be kind to like my sister, and my mom, and Pastor Mike.

Beth: That's a great idea, Scooter! And don't forget to add Mr. Lottsalegs to that list! [laughing]

Scooter: Don't be silly, Beth. Mr. Lottsalegs isn't a PERSON. [pauses—then dramatically yells toward place where he released spider] I'll never forget you, Mr. Lottsalegs!!!

Beth: Kindness comes in many forms, Scooter.

Scooter: I guess so. Even spiders need a little kindness now and then.

Beth: I never thought I'd be saying this but I think you're right.

[Both exit.]

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

[Scooter enters]

Scooter: [praying] Dear God, I hope you can hear me.

[Beth enters and quietly observes. She can bow her head and fold her hands if she wants.]

Scooter: [getting a little louder] I need your help at school. I'm having trouble with math. [getting louder] And I could really use your help with that bully who's always mean to me. [getting very loud] Most of all, please keep my family safe. I LOVE YOU! AMEN!

Beth: Amen!

Scooter: Oh, hi, Beth. I didn't hear you come in.

Beth: Maybe because you were YELLING.

Scooter: Oh, yeah. Well, I wanted to make sure that God heard me. I mean, he is way up there in heaven.

Beth: True. But he's also right with you, Scooter.

Scooter: Are you sure he can hear me [whispers] ... even when I whisper?

Beth: He can hear you even if you don't say anything out loud.

Scooter: Can he hear me when I'm at school, or baseball practice, or riding in the car?

Beth: He can hear you ANYWHERE. Even when you're swimming underwater in a pool!

Scooter: Even if I'm in my dark, scary basement?

Beth: Yep.

Scooter: So he hears me every time I pray, no matter where I am and how loud I talk?

Beth: He sure does. And the best part is, he promises to answer our prayers.

Scooter: I guess I don't need to yell anymore.

Beth: Probably not. Now you can save your voice for when you really need it—like cheering me on at Saturday's game.

Scooter: Give me a B!

Beth: B!

Scooter: Give me an E!

Beth: E!

Scooter: Give me a T...

[Both exit while finishing cheer to spell BETH.]

BRAVE

[Scooter enters wearing adventurers' garb, pith helmet, Indiana Jones hat, vest, binoculars, or cowboy gear.]

Beth: Scooter, why are you dressed like that?

Scooter: I'm an adventurer, Beth! I am boldly going where no person has gone before.

Beth: Really? Where's that?

Scooter: [pauses] SCHOOL.

Beth: Scooter, you've been to school before.

Scooter: Not with Otis McGrubb wanting my hide.

Beth: Your hide?

Scooter: Otis and his gang have been giving me trouble, Beth, and it's best to be prepared.

Beth: And by gang, you mean Charlie Nickels?

Scooter: That's the one. Those guys told me I better watch myself at school or I might get a surprise. And knowing those two, that's not the kind of surprise I'd like to have.

Beth: Well, Scooter, you don't have to dress like that to be brave at school.

Scooter: I don't?

Beth: No, God knows about those troublemakers, and he'll be with you.

Scooter: How do I know?

Beth: Because God promises he will never leave you or forsake you. And he has the power to take care of really big problems.

Scooter: Like Otis and his gang?

Beth: Sure. But you know, God cares about Otis, too, so just keep being kind.

Scooter: Hmm. So I don't have to dress like an adventurer to be brave, I just have to remember God is with me?

Beth: That's right.

Scooter: Can I ask you a question?

Beth: Sure, Scooter!

Scooter: [strikes pose] Does this outfit make me look cool?

Beth: Maybe if you were exploring ancient ruins (alternative: in a Wild West duel), but I like your regular clothes better.

Scooter: OK, Beth, you've convinced me. Going to school and facing guys like Otis, may be an adventure. But I can be brave because God is on my side.

Beth: Exactly.

Scooter: I think I better go change before school.

Beth: Good idea.

[Both exit.]

I DID IT AGAIN

[Beth enters reading a book.]

Beth: But the princess didn't know it was the prince because he was dressed like a ...

[Scooter rushes on.]

Scooter: Beth, I need your help!

Beth: What's going on, Scooter?

Scooter: I did it again!

Beth: What did you do again?

Scooter: I hurt Sam's feelings. I told him that fighter jets were NOT cool, when he just decorated his room with fighter jets.

Beth: But fighter jets ARE cool. You talk about them all the time.

Scooter: I know that. That's beside the point. I was mean to Sam and it wasn't the first time. Remember when I told him his bike looked like a girl's?

Beth: Yeah. That wasn't good.

Scooter: But it has STREAMERS. And then there was the time I said Superman was better than Spiderman because Sam dressed up like Spiderman for the Harvest party.

Beth: Oh, yeah.

Scooter: And now this! I'm such a bad friend.

Beth: Well, there's a way to fix that problem, you know.

Scooter: There is? How?

Beth: You have to ask for forgiveness. God will always forgive you when you do something wrong.

Scooter: I know, but I keep messing up over and over. I should have learned my lesson by now.

Beth: David in the Bible made a lot of mistakes, too. He hurt a lot of people. But God forgave David every time he asked. God always gave him a fresh start.

Scooter: That's what I need.

Beth: God forgives us and helps us to do better because his Son Jesus died on the cross for us.

Scooter: Wow! I guess that means he's serious about forgiving me.

Beth: He sure is.

Scooter: Well, I need to go apologize to Sam ... again. If it's like the last time, he'll probably forgive me. Plus, I think he knows I really think fighter jets are awesome.

Beth: Because they ARE!

Scooter: Very true, Beth. Very true.

[Both exit.]

BOOK SMART

[Beth enters reading a magazine. Scooter enters carrying an enormous stack of books; he could sway and wobble for some comedy.]

Beth: Hey, Scooter. Are you OK? Need some help?

Scooter: [still swaying and wobbling] I'm fine, Beth. I just have a temporary situation.

Beth: What are you doing with all those books?

Scooter: [sets down stack and wipes brow] Phew! I am getting ready to be wise.

Beth: Oh. Planning to do a little reading?

Scooter: Well, to be wise I'll need to read A LOT of books. But it will be worth it.

Beth: Yeah, wisdom is a great thing. It helps you make good decisions and be fair.

Scooter: Exactly! That's why I'm planning to read all these books.

Beth: I thought you only read comic books and mysteries.

Scooter: Well, I'm turning over a new leaf ... that's a wise, old saying, in case you didn't know. Turning over a new leaf. It means making a fresh start!

Beth: I know. But are you sure all this reading will make you wise?

Scooter: What else can I do?

Beth: There was a king in the Bible named Solomon who asked God for wisdom.

Scooter: Did it work?

Beth: Sure did! Solomon was the wisest king who ever lived.

Scooter: Because God made him wise?

Beth: Yep! If we ask God for wisdom, he promises to give it to us.

Scooter: *Hmm.* I've been going about this the wrong way. I don't think reading is the answer, Beth.

Beth: Really?

Scooter: Except maybe reading the BIBLE. Because that book is FULL of God's wisdom.

Beth: Good point.

Scooter: [looks at stack] Need a good book to read?

[Both laugh, pick up books, and exit.]

BUGGED

[Scooter enters and looks forward as if surveying damage.]

Scooter: Oh, no! [grabs head, covers eyes, etc.] This is terrible. Just TERRIBLE!

Beth: [enters] Hey, Scooter! What's up? [notices damage] Oh, boy.

Scooter: My pride and joy! It's destroyed! It's RUINED! It's OBLITERATED!

Beth: Calm down. I'm sure you can fix it.

Scooter: But it will never be the same. [face in hands again and drops to knees dramatically] So many lives lost!

Beth: [looking sympathetically] I'm sorry your ant farm got smashed.

Scooter: I set it on the counter earlier when I was cleaning the glass. I guess Gus knocked it over.

Beth: Your cat?

Scooter: Yeah. He's fascinated by ants.

Beth: I'm sorry, Scooter.

Scooter: Why do these things always happen to me? Last week I got a C on my spelling test AND I had to go to my room for talking back to my mom. It seems bad things are always happening to me.

Beth: There's another way of looking at the bad things, you know.

Scooter: How? Besides that they are BAD and AWFUL and I don't like them one little bit!

Beth: Well, when we make mistakes ...

Scooter: Like leaving an ant farm on the counter?

Beth: Yeah. When we make mistakes, God gives us a chance to learn from them. So maybe we won't do that same bad thing twice.

Scooter: Yeah, I guess you're right.

Beth: When you think about it—God can take a bad thing and turn it into a good thing.

Scooter: I now know I need to study for spelling tests.

Beth: You didn't study? Oh, boy. [looking forward] Let's see if we can clean up this mess and turn this bad thing into something good.

Scooter: Get ready, guys, you're getting a new home!

[Both exit.]

MY CAVE

[Scooter enters and sits under a "fort" made of two chairs and a blanket. Make sure the front is open so kids can see in.]

Beth: [enters] Scooter? Scooter! SCOOTER?

Scooter: [small voice] I'm in here.

Beth: [toward audience] Did somebody say something?

Scooter: [louder] I'm in here, Beth.

Beth: [sees fort] Oh, hi! What are you doing in there?

Scooter: Hiding.

Beth: From what?

Scooter: My problems.

Beth: What problems?

Scooter: Well, my cat Gus ran away.

Beth: [joining Scooter in fort] That's too bad, but he'll probably come back ...

Scooter: I know. But I also got a bad grade on my report card. And Sam got mad at me today, because I broke his blue airplane.

Beth: You do have a few problems.

Scooter: I know. And I thought if I just hid in here, maybe they would go away.

Beth: I see.

Scooter: Do you think they'll go away?

Beth: Scooter, everyone has problems that come up. I just found out that my aunt is moving to another state.

Scooter: That's terrible! What did you do?

Beth: I talked to God about it, and then I felt better. I knew he had everything under control.

Scooter: I hadn't thought about that. That might be a better plan than hiding in this fort all day.

Beth: Definitely. Maybe we can even go get some ice cream.

Scooter: *Mmm.* Peanut butter chocolate swirl with raisins and cherry sauce?

Beth: Ugh! You've got problems!

Scooter: Tell me about it.

[Both laugh and exit.]

DON'T GIVE UP

[Scooter enters in despair.]

Scooter: I give up!

Beth: [enters] What's up, Scooter?

Scooter: I can't do it!

Beth: You can't do what?

Scooter: I can't play basketball.

Beth: What do you mean? You're a great three-point shooter.

Scooter: But I'm not as good as the other guys on the team, Beth. And I have to sit on the bench most of the game.

Beth: Well, you're still learning. If you stick with it, maybe next year you'll be really good. What does the coach say?

Scooter: He says to keep working on my free throws and passing and I'll be a big help to the team.

Beth: See! The coach hasn't given up on you. He's trying to help you to be your best.

Scooter: I never thought of that.

Beth: That's his job. He sees your potential.

Scooter: Potential? Could you use smaller words, please?

Beth: He sees the kind of player you COULD BE with a little more practice, and he's helping you to get there.

Scooter: I guess I just need to be patient.

Beth: Remember when I didn't get the part of Dorothy in the school play last year?

Scooter: Yeah.

Beth: Well, my teacher helped me be the best munchkin I could be, and this year I got a bigger part in the play. She didn't give up on me, either.

Scooter: And my parents NEVER give up on me. Mom still says I'm the best player on my team. But moms have to say stuff like that.

Beth: And you know who NEVER, NEVER gives up on you?

Scooter: Who?

Beth: God. He sees everything you can do and no matter how hopeless things seem, he's always there to help you.

Scooter: That's good to know. I think I should stick with basketball. I might not be the best player, but with practice I can be a big help to my team.

Beth: That's the spirit! Let's go work on those free throws.

Scooter: Are you sure munchkins can play basketball?

Beth: Let's go.

[Beth punches Scooter's arm playfully and both exit.]

GOODBYE, BRUCE

[Scooter enters looking glum.]

Beth: [enters] Hey, Scooter! Want to go ride bikes with me?

Scooter: I wish I could, Beth.

Beth: What's wrong? Why can't you go?

Scooter: My bike got smashed.

Beth: Oh, no! What happened?

Scooter: Well, my mom kept reminding me not to leave my bike in the driveway.

Beth: And you forgot?

Scooter: [sigh] Yeah, my dad backed over it on his way to work. Poor Bruce!

Beth: OH, NO! Who's Bruce?!

Scooter: That's the name of my bike.

Beth: Your bike has a name?

Scooter: HAD a name, Beth. We had to put Bruce in the dumpster.

Beth: Sorry, Scooter. That's too bad.

Scooter: It's my fault. I was always too busy to put my bike away. And mom warned me this would happen. But I didn't listen.

Beth: You actually have a lot to be thankful for.

Scooter: I do?

Beth: You may have made a mistake, but you have a mom and dad who love you and want the best for you.

Scooter: I know. I should have listened to Mom.

Beth: Remember the Israelites?

Scooter: Yeah.

Beth: God told them lots of times that bad things would happen if they didn't change their ways, but they didn't listen. So they had to have some sad times.

Scooter: How did they feel better?

Beth: Well, God kept loving them and still wanted to do good things for them.

Scooter: Even when they didn't listen?

Beth: Even then. Just keep trying to listen, and you won't be sad for long.

Scooter: Thanks, Beth. I feel much better!

Beth: I'm glad. Why don't we WALK to the park today?

Scooter: I think Bruce would have wanted that.

[Both exit.]

LOYALTY AWARD

[Scooter enters holding some kind of ribbon or medal.]

Beth: [enters] Hey, Scooter!

Scooter: Guess what, Beth! Molly won an award!

Beth: Your dog got a prize? That's cool!

Scooter: Yeah, we've been taking her to obedience school, and last night she won the LOYALTY AWARD.

Beth: That's Molly. She'd never leave your side if she could help it.

Scooter: True! She is a really loyal dog. Come to think of it, most dogs are known for being loyal to their masters.

Beth: Unlike cats.

Scooter: Yep. But Gus finally came back!

Beth: That's good. People can be loyal, too, you know.

Scooter: Yeah, like a loyal friend. You're a loyal friend, Beth.

Beth: Thanks!

Scooter: You never ditch me to do stuff with other friends. You're always there for me when you say you're going to be.

Beth: There was a guy in the Bible who was loyal to God.

Scooter: Who?

Beth: Daniel.

Scooter: Like Daniel and the lions' den?

Beth: That's the guy! He had a choice. He could stop praying to God and survive or he could pray to God like he always did and get thrown to the lions.

Scooter: Daniel wasn't the kind of guy who would ditch God to save himself.

Beth: Nope. He was loyal, even when it meant he might lose his life.

Scooter: Wow. I want to be loyal to God like that.

Beth: Maybe Molly can teach you a thing or two.

Scooter: Maybe she can! But I probably don't need to drink water out of the toilet.

Beth: No, I wouldn't recommend it.

Scooter: Thanks, Beth! You're a loyal friend.

[Both laugh and exit.]

FOLLOW THE LEADER

[Beth and Scooter skip onto the stage; Scooter is following Beth.]

Beth: Now stop!

[Beth and Scooter stop and face forward.]

Beth: OK, Scooter, do three jumping jacks.

Scooter: [doing jumping jacks along with Beth] One, two, three ...

Beth: Now raise your hands in the air and wave them back and forth.

Scooter: [raises hands in the air and waves them back and forth]

Beth: Now hop in a circle on one foot!

Scooter: [hops in a circle on one foot] I'm getting dizzy!

Beth: Now sit down!

[Beth and Scooter plop down.]

Scooter: Wow, Beth. You sure are a good leader! Sorry I made you do seven somersaults when it was my turn.

Beth: That's OK. Follow the leader is fun.

Scooter: It is if you have the right leader.

Beth: It IS important to have a good leader. Not just for games, but in real life, too.

Scooter: A leader in real life? Like Mr. Anderson, my Scout leader? He teaches me to make knots and pitch tents and make bird calls. CAW-CAW, CAW-CAW!

Beth: That's one kind of leader. But we follow one big leader, too. God!

Scooter: Oh, yeah! I guess our guidebook is the Bible.

Beth: That's right! God tells us what to do in the Bible and our part is to follow him.

Scooter: Cool! I'll bet he is the BEST leader of all.

Beth: He is. But it's not always easy to follow him.

Scooter: Like when he says to be kind to people who are mean to us. I don't always want to do that.

Beth: But when you do, you'll be following God—your good leader.

Scooter: Wow! That's exciting. Is it my turn to be the leader now?

Beth: Yep!

Scooter: [stands up] OK, Beth. Hop on one foot all the way to the mailbox!

Beth: This isn't the Olympics, you know.

[Beth follows Scooter off, hopping on one foot.]

TRAINING FOR TROUBLE

[Scooter runs on with a sweatband and athletic gear as if in training. Begins doing big side stretches. For added humor, play music like “Eye of the Tiger” or the theme song from *Rocky*. Or have him wearing an iPod that he’s rocking out to.]

Beth: [enters] Hi, Scooter. [Scooter doesn’t hear, so she speaks more loudly.] Hi, Scooter!

Scooter: [Music goes down; Scooter jogs in place.] Oh, hi, Beth!

Beth: What are you doing?

Scooter: I have a big challenge ahead, Beth. I’m training.

Beth: Are you competing in a race?

Scooter: No way! I’m not a fast runner.

Beth: Are you playing a championship game of ...

[Scooter jumps, leaps and flails his arms awkwardly.]

Beth: extreme ping-pong?

Scooter: No, Beth, I’m getting ready to face Mean Maximus at school.

Beth: You mean Max?

Scooter: Yep, he’s tried to trip me TWICE this week at school, so I need to hone my strength, agility, and cat-like reflexes. [strikes cat-scratching pose]

Beth: I think you may be going about this the wrong way.

Scooter: What do you mean? I’m training to avoid a bully, Beth. What’s wrong with that?

Beth: Well, you could just face him.

Scooter: Face him? [pauses like he's thinking about it then yells] ARE YOU CRAZY?!! Mean Maximus will eat me for dinner! Well, he won't actually eat me.

Beth: Why not pray about it, talk to your parents, and try to show Max kindness? It must be hard to be the kid everyone's scared of.

Scooter: I never thought of that.

Beth: Plus, you don't have to be afraid when God is by your side.

Scooter: He's like [pause] the ULTIMATE TRAINER!

Beth: I guess you could say that. Except he doesn't want you to run. He wants you to do the right thing.

Scooter: You're right, Beth. As usual. It is a little silly to train to run away from someone. You have to face your problems.

Beth: And you've got good friends to help you. But most of all you have God to help you.

Scooter: Cool! Maybe I could even tell Max about my awesome trainer.

Beth: Great idea! Scooter, I think you're in good shape!

[Both exit.]

SIDEKICK

[Beth enters followed by Scooter. Scooter holds a clipboard and a sign with yarn to hang around Beth's neck that says: Scooter's Super Sidekick.]

Scooter: Hi, Beth! This is your lucky day!

Beth: Oh, hey, Scooter! It is? Why?

Scooter: [looks at clipboard] After reviewing all the data, I have decided to make you my sidekick. [For extra humor, Scooter may stand side-by-side with Beth and gently kick the back of her nearest knee with his foot when he says the word "sidekick."]

Beth: Oh, wow! That's nice of you, but ...

Scooter: No buts about it. The position is yours. [hangs a sign around Beth's neck that says: Scooter's Super Sidekick.]

Beth: And I get a sign, too.

Scooter: Only the best for you, Beth!

Beth: So why did you suddenly decide that you need a sidekick?

Scooter: Well, all cool people have a sidekick: Batman had Robin; Shaggy had Scooby-Doo; and I have you!

Beth: Well, that's really nice of you, but I'm not sure you need a sidekick, especially one that wears a sign.

Scooter: I just think it's a good idea to ALWAYS have someone on my side.

Beth: I see what you mean, but you DO always have someone on your side.

Scooter: I do? Who?

Beth: God is always on your side, and he is the ultimate sidekick.

Scooter: God can't be a sidekick. He's the CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE! I'm more like his sidekick.

Beth: Good point. But how cool to always have the most powerful person of all on your side.

Scooter: That IS cool. [ponders then starts to remove the sign from around Beth's neck] I hope you won't be offended, but I think I've changed my mind about making you my sidekick.

Beth: [relieved] I'm not offended at all.

Scooter: I have God on my side, so I don't need a sidekick.

[Beth and Scooter begin walking off stage.]

Beth: I think you're right.

Scooter: I wonder how much cooler Batman would have been with God as his sidekick!

Beth: Oh, boy.

[Both exit.]

GUEST OF HONOR

[Beth enters; she can be jumping rope or reading a book.]

Scooter: [stumbles on stage and wipes the back of his hand across his forehead]
Phew! I'm pooped!

Beth: Hi, Scooter! Why are you so tired?

Scooter: I've been cleaning my room!

Beth: [incredulously] You? Clean your room? What's the occasion?

Scooter: My Uncle Josiah is coming to town. He lives in India as a missionary. Mom says he's our guest of honor!

Beth: Your uncle lives in India? That's cool!

Scooter: Yeah, last time he visited us, he brought me a basket that was used by a real snake charmer.

Beth: Ugh! Minus the snake, I hope.

Scooter: [sighs] Unfortunately, yes. Anyway, Uncle Josiah is going to stay in my room, so I had to make it look good.

Beth: That's really cool that you're making him feel so welcome.

Scooter: Mom made a joke that if I didn't clean my room, we'd have to put Uncle Josiah in the garage! "No room in the inn!" she said.

Beth: That IS funny. You know when Jesus came to Earth, he should have been the greatest guest of honor EVER! But instead he was born in a stable because there wasn't room in the inn.

Scooter: Did somebody forget to clean his room?

Beth: No, Jesus—God's Son, the SAVIOR OF THE WORLD—was born to a poor family. He was a Savior for everyone, not just the rich and powerful.

Scooter: But you would think they could have found God a better room than a stable with a bunch of stinky animals!

Beth: Yeah, you would think that, but Jesus being born in a stable was God's perfect plan.

Scooter: Even though he was a GUEST OF HONOR?

Beth: Yeah. Jesus came humbly so that everyone could know him.

Scooter: You know what, I think I need to go back and make my room extra-clean for Uncle Josiah. I may have stuffed some dirty socks under my bed.

Beth: Ew, gross.

Scooter: I've decided something. There should always be room in OUR inn for visitors.

Beth: And there should always be room in our hearts for Jesus.

Scooter: Amen!

[Both exit.]

I'VE GOT THE POWER

[Scooter enters and begins striking muscleman poses.]

Scooter: I am powerful! I am the strongest in the world! *Huhhh!*

[Beth enters and observes Scooter; he doesn't know she's there.]

Scooter: [notices Beth and snaps out of his own little world with embarrassment]
Oh, hey, Beth.

Beth: Hi, Scooter. What are you doing?

Scooter: Nothing. Just enjoying this beautiful day.

Beth: I saw you.

Scooter: [sheepishly] OK, I may have been practicing my power poses.

Beth: Power poses?

Scooter: I found an article in a magazine with a bodybuilding routine and power poses. This morning, I ate six eggs for breakfast!

Beth: Six eggs?! Ew!

Scooter: [grabbing stomach] Yeah, I did feel a little sick afterward.

Beth: Why do you want to be a bodybuilder?

Scooter: Bodybuilders are strong and powerful and nobody messes with them.
[strikes pose] *Huhhh!*

Beth: I see your point. But real power comes from God. He wants us to rely on him. We don't need power poses.

Scooter: But won't everyone think I'm weak?

Beth: Not with God on your side! He is all-powerful.

Scooter: *Hmm.* God does do some amazing things. My Aunt Mary was sick, and God made her better. We all prayed about it for a long time.

Beth: See! That's the kind of power I'm talking about. The kind that comes from God, not a magazine.

Scooter: That's some POWERFUL logic, Beth. And I'm kind of glad that I'm going to get to change my breakfast menu.

Beth: Eggs-cellent!

[Both laugh and exit.]

KNOW IT ALL

[Scooter enters holding a big book such as an encyclopedia or dictionary.]

Scooter: Despite the size of their enormous ears, elephants have very poor hearing. Interesting.

Beth: [enters] Hey, Scooter!

Scooter: Oh, hi, Beth! I'm becoming the world's leading expert on elephants!

Beth: Are you sure about that?

Scooter: Yep! Listen to this: [looks at book] an adult Indian elephant weighs approximately 11,000 pounds! Whoa! You wouldn't want THAT to sit on you.

Beth: You sure wouldn't. That reminds me: What game do elephants like the most?

Scooter: [begins thumbing through his book] Hold on a minute. [turns more pages.] Hmm. It appears that information isn't in here ... What game DO elephants like the most?

Beth: SQUASH. Get it? Squash.

[Scooter stares at Beth blankly.]

Beth: It's a joke, Scooter! Squash, like the Indian elephant would squash you if it sat on you? Squash is also a game ... kind of like tennis.

Scooter: [in an offended tone] That was not very nice. I couldn't possibly have known that.

Beth: Sorry. I thought you'd enjoy the joke.

Scooter: Hmph. I guess I'm not the world's leading expert on elephants.

Beth: Scooter, no matter how much we know, we can always learn new things.

Scooter: We can?

Beth: Yeah! When Jesus was on Earth, he was always teaching new things about God to his followers. Sometimes he used stories, called parables. Other times he preached sermons that thousands of people came to hear. And other times, he used an object like a mustard seed or a little boy's lunch to make a point.

Scooter: Wow. He must have really known A LOT!

Beth: He did. He was GOD, after all.

Scooter: Good point! I guess I do still have a lot to learn, especially when it comes to knowing Jesus.

Beth: We all do, Scooter.

Scooter: Hmm. I wonder if I could get a live elephant to use when I teach people about pachyderms—that's another term for elephants.

Beth: Just make sure it doesn't sit on you!

Scooter: Point well-taken, Beth. By the way, it would be impossible for an elephant to play squash. They don't have fingers.

Beth: IT WAS A JOKE!

Scooter: [grinning] I know.

[Both laugh and exit.]

MOST IMPORTANT

[Scooter enters dribbling/holding a basketball. May be wearing a jersey. To personalize, change Ronnie Colthoff to a basketball player kids know and replace statistics.]

Scooter: [mimes the following, but does not let the ball go] He fakes right. He fakes left. To the basket, he scores! The crowd goes wild! [crowd cheering noise]

Beth: Hi, Scooter!

Scooter: Beth! Did you see how Ronnie Colthoff played last night? He scored 37 points! It was awesome.

Beth: Wow! That's some game.

Scooter: I know! I want to be just like Ronnie when I get older. I'm in his fan club. And I even sent him a letter. I'm just hoping he writes back.

Beth: So you're a big fan, huh?

Scooter: The BIGGEST! Well, probably not ACTUALLY the biggest.

Beth: [smiling] I know what you mean.

Scooter: Anyway, I know everything about him. His favorite vegetable is corn. His younger brother is left-handed. And he sleeps 6 hours and 45 minutes each night.

Beth: Wow. You do know a lot about him.

Scooter: Not only that. He's 6-feet-9-inches tall. He's been the team's high scorer three seasons in a row. And his free throw percentage is .764. He's the best player EVER!

Beth: He must be really important to you.

Scooter: Oh yes! He's important to me and to maybe the whole world. I really wish he would write me a letter, but I'm just a kid. I'm not a very important person. After all, I don't even have enough money to buy a ticket to go see a game.

Beth: Well, even if Ronnie doesn't think you are important, you are important to me and to someone else.

Scooter: (Pauses to think.) Well, I guess I'm pretty important to my parents.

Beth: I'm sure you are important to your parents, but that's not who I was thinking of.

Scooter: Really? Who?

Beth: Don't you remember when we learned about Jesus blessing the children? The disciples thought he should spend time with important people who were in charge. They sent the parents and the kids away, but Jesus stopped them and told the children to come to him. He blessed them and spent time with them. It showed everyone that children were important to Jesus.

Scooter: Yeah, that's pretty cool. Jesus made time for the children. I wonder if Ronnie would spend time with a bunch of kids instead of people who wanted to pay him money to wear the newest shoes in a commercial.

Beth: Jesus made time for the children to show how important they were to him.

Scooter: [like opening monologue] He created the world! He saved me! He's my friend who will never leave me! And he thinks I'm important! The crowd goes wild. [crowd cheering sound]

Beth: Let's find some other kids to tell them that they are important to Jesus, too.

Scooter: Great idea, Beth. Let's go!

[Walk off stage together.]

NO MORE MR. NICE GUY

[Beth enters with a sketch book; she can be drawing something.]

Scooter: [rushes on stage agitated] That's it! No more Mr. Nice Guy!

Beth: But what if I like Mr. Nice Guy?

Scooter: Too bad. I've had enough! Otis and Charlie have played one too many pranks on me!

Beth: What did they do this time?

Scooter: I'm not positive it was them, but I'm pretty sure they put a carton of rotten milk in my backpack.

Beth: Ugh! That's so GROSS.

Scooter: I KNOW! When I opened it at lunchtime, it stunk up the whole place.

Beth: At least you didn't drink it!

Scooter: But those two guys couldn't stop laughing. Beth, I'm done being nice! People take advantage of the nice guy.

Beth: You know, Jesus was a nice guy. And he just kept being nice—even when people treated him terribly.

Scooter: Well that's different. Jesus HAD to be nice to everybody. He was God.

Beth: I think he was ABLE to be nice to everybody because he saw the bigger picture—that he was going to die on the cross to pay for people's sins.

Scooter: Yeah, and I suppose Jesus would want me to be kind to my enemies, too.

Beth: That does show people that you're different. And, who knows. Maybe it will make them want to know Jesus.

Scooter: [looking sheepish] I may have just remembered something.

Beth: What?

Scooter: I didn't drink my milk on Monday because I had a cold.

Beth: You mean YOU left the rotten milk in your own backpack?

Scooter: It wasn't rotten when I left it in there.

Beth: Poor Otis and Charlie! Misjudged all this time.

Scooter: I guess that teaches me a lesson about being nice. If Jesus could be nice to the people who did mean things to him, I can be nice to those guys.

Beth: [punches Scooter on shoulder] I'm glad Mr. Nice Guy is back.

Scooter: Me, too! [uses fingers to hold nose] Remind me never to leave milk in my backpack again.

Beth: I'll try.

[Both laugh and exit.]

BRAND-NEW

[Beth enters; she can be jumping rope or reading a book.]

Scooter: [enters excitedly holding a toaster pastry box] Hi, Beth! Guess what?

Beth: What?

Scooter: My favorite frosted breakfast treat has an ALL NEW FLAVOR!

Beth: Um, that's cool.

Scooter: And I wanted you to witness me tasting it for the very first time!

Beth: OK. Go for it!

[Scooter pretends to take a bite and chews slowly.]

Beth: Well? How is it?

Scooter: Something must be wrong. I'm going to take another bite. [takes a second pretend bite] This tastes just like the old flavor. It just has different sprinkles!

Beth: Not so new, huh?

Scooter: No! False advertising. I want my money back! [Pretends to keep eating toaster pastry] Well, it was actually Mom's money, but still ...

Beth: You know something that's ACTUALLY new?

Scooter: [looks suspicious] What?

Beth: Our hearts when we accept Jesus. When we come to him, he makes us new.

Scooter: How does he do that?

Beth: God has a lot of power. When Jesus died on the cross, God raised him from the dead.

Scooter: That's a lot of power! So he actually makes us BRAND-NEW and doesn't just sprinkle something new on top?

Beth: That's right. God has the power to completely change our hearts and make us totally different—like a 180-degree turn.

Scooter: My favorite breakfast treat should get THAT definition of new!

Beth: I notice you managed to eat it all.

Scooter: Beth, that's beside the point. It's the principle of the matter.

Beth: I see what you're saying. I guess you'll have to leave NEW to God and settle for old when it comes to breakfast.

Scooter: Yeah. Just not OLD like they've been in a cupboard for a year-and-a-half.

Beth: Exactly!

[Both laugh and exit.]

INSIDE MAKEOVER

[Beth enters.]

Scooter: [enters wearing an interesting outfit and with his hair spiked weirdly] Why hello there, Beth.

Beth: [surprised by Scooter's appearance] Hi, Scooter! You look ... different.

Scooter: I know. I decided I needed a change! So I got a MAKEOVER! [strikes a pose] TA-DA!!!

Beth: Wow. A makeover. That explains the way you look.

Scooter: Beth, I just had a birthday. Now that I'm older I'll have more responsibilities.

Beth: So you changed your clothes?

Scooter: And hair. I figured maybe a new look would help me be a better person.

Beth: Well, I liked the way you looked before. But I guess I understand why you want a change.

Scooter: Sometimes you just need the extra little something, you know? [points at Beth, winks, and makes a clicking sound]

Beth: I do know. There was once a group of people that needed a little extra something. After Jesus rose again, he told his followers that they would have to wait for something that would help them do a new, important job.

Scooter: Oooo! Sounds exciting. What was it?

Beth: You mean, who was it?

Scooter: OK, WHO was it?

Beth: The Holy Spirit. God sent the believers his Holy Spirit to help them spread the truth about Jesus all over the world!

Scooter: Wow! That must have been great!

Beth: It sure was.

Scooter: A lot better than a makeover.

Beth: Yeah, because a makeover only changes your outside, but God's Holy Spirit changes the inside.

Scooter: That's it! I will do an inside makeover.

Beth: You don't really have to do anything, Scooter. The Holy Spirit is the one who changes you and helps you live for God.

Scooter: So should I still keep the new hair and clothes?

Beth: My personal opinion: no. Unless you're planning to scare the dog.

Scooter: Hey! I look good.

[Both laugh and exit.]

WORRY WART

[Scooter enters and paces.]

Scooter: Oh, boy. [paces] Oh, man. [paces] What am I going to do?

Beth: [enters] Hi, Scooter! Is something wrong?

Scooter: Yes, something is definitely wrong.

Beth: What?

Scooter: I heard my parents talking, and my dad might lose his job. [paces] Oh, boy. What am I going to do?

Beth: I'm sorry to hear that, Scooter. I can see how you'd be worried.

Scooter: [getting hysterical] If Dad loses his job, we might have to MOVE. And then I'd have to go to a new school. And then I wouldn't have any friends. And what about Gus and Molly? What if we get an apartment that doesn't allow pets?

Beth: Aren't you getting a little ahead of yourself? Maybe nothing will happen with your dad's job. Or maybe he'll get a better job here.

Scooter: [calming down] Oh. I didn't think of that. But I'm still worried.

Beth: Let me tell you about a couple of guys who should have been worried. Their names were Paul and Silas and they loved Jesus and wanted to tell EVERYBODY about him.

Scooter: I've heard of those guys. They're in the Bible. They got put into prison for preaching about Jesus, right?

Beth: Yep. They could have been SUPER worried about being stuck in prison with chains on their hands and feet.

Scooter: I would have been.

Beth: But instead they prayed and sang songs so that the people in the prison would hear about Jesus and believe in him.

Scooter: That's a weird reaction to being thrown in prison.

Beth: It sure is! But God did something amazing to free Paul and Silas from jail. An earthquake caused their chains to fall off and the prison doors to open.

Scooter: Did they escape?

Beth: No, they stayed and told the jailer all about Jesus. And he believed! What started out as a scary situation turned out to be a great way to tell others about God.

Scooter: So I guess if I don't worry about what's going to happen and trust God instead, I might have a chance to tell my friends about Jesus?

Beth: Exactly!

Scooter: [paces] Oh, boy! Oh, man! What am I going to do?

Beth: What's wrong now?

Scooter: How am I going to tell all those people about Jesus?!

Beth: I think you'll do just fine. Don't worry about it!

[Both exit.]

SHIPWRECKED!

[Scooter enters dressed as a pirate—eye patch, bandana, sword. Beth enters from opposite side of stage.]

Scooter: Ahoy, matey!

Beth: Um ... ahoy.

Scooter: Welcome to me ship! *Arrrrr*. Hoist the mainsail.

Beth: So, today you're a pirate?

Scooter: You can call me Captain. Captain Scooter Gray.

Beth: OK, Captain.

Scooter: [looks into air and freezes] Wait a minute! What is this? It's a storm! [he begins sidestepping left as if ship is tilting in storm.] Whoa! Did you feel that?

Beth: [gets into character] I did, Captain! Here comes another! [They both sidestep right as if ship is tilting.]

Scooter and Beth: Whoa!

[Scooter and Beth stumble right and left a few more times to continue comedy of storm scene.]

Scooter: It appears the storm has passed. Great job, first mate!

Beth: [brushing herself off] *Phew!* I'm glad we weren't shipwrecked!

Scooter: Me, too!

Beth: During his adventures of telling people about Jesus, Paul was once shipwrecked on an island.

Scooter: That must have been scary!

Beth: Yes, but it didn't stop him from spreading the word about Jesus. Paul spent his WHOLE life serving God. Even when things happened that could have stopped him.

Scooter: Like shipwrecks?

Beth: And beatings. And prison. Paul just kept serving God.

Scooter: That's the kind of person I want to be. I want to serve God my whole life. I won't let one little storm stop me.

Beth: That's the spirit, Captain!

Scooter: [pulls out a second pirate hat] Looks like you've earned your hat, first mate.

Beth: [looks forward] Where are we going?

Scooter: Wherever the open sea takes us. Life is an adventure when God is with you.

Beth: It sure is!

Scooter: *Arrrr!*

Beth: *Arrrr!*

[Both exit.]

CLEAR VISION

[Scooter enters wearing glasses. Beth enters from opposite side.]

Beth: Hey, Scooter. Cool glasses!

Scooter: [not exactly looking at Beth yet] Thanks, Beth. I just got them yesterday. And you wouldn't believe the things I can see! Molly is missing a tooth! I never noticed that before. And I actually like to read! [turns toward Beth and puts hands on her shoulders] There's something different about you, too. [pause] You have FRECKLES!

Beth: Sounds like you missed a lot when you couldn't see properly.

Scooter: I sure did! It's like a different world out there now!

Beth: That's cool, Scooter! You know there's a big event that is going to happen someday that the Bible says EVERY eye will see.

Scooter: What's that?

Beth: The day Jesus comes back!

Scooter: What day is that?! I better mark it on my calendar.

Beth: That's the thing. Nobody knows the hour or the day Jesus is coming.

Scooter: So it will be the greatest surprise in history?!

Beth: Yes, but one man got a sneak peek. Jesus' friend John had a vision about what that day would be like. He saw Jesus coming back on a white horse. And he saw what heaven looks like.

Scooter: I'll bet that was AWESOME!

Beth: It was. He saw gates and buildings made out of jewels and streets of gold. Heaven is more beautiful than we can even imagine.

Scooter: I can't wait to go there!

Beth: But for now, you can enjoy God's beautiful creation here.

Scooter: And even more now that I have these glasses.

Beth: Clear vision is important!

Scooter: I SEE exactly what you mean, Beth.

[Both laugh and exit.]