

Honesty Plays

This Series of Honesty Plays was designed for puppet use but can be adapted for use as straight drama. Each of these plays are part of the whole and can be performed over a number of weeks or throughout one session.. some are just short and humourous others more serious in their approach. If they are used as puppet plays you will find they will only take 30-45 mins in rehearse if the scripts have been given to the kids beforehand to take home and read through. There are parts suitable for ages 5-12 and older. They are printed in a large text to make them easy to read for kids. Try fastening them with pins to the sheet/front cover of the puppet stage.

Esther

All characters on stage

King I choose Esther to be my queen. Proclaim a royal holiday. Come with me...

Esther and King leave.

Haman So you're her father

Mordecai I'm so proud of her. Sorry, I must leave as the King has asked me to take up a new job for him. Great meeting you.

M leaves stage

Haman You won't be proud for long... the upstart, who does he think he is.. I must think of a way to get rid of him or the king will no longer favour me... Yessss.... That's it! (Exits)

A "Little Later" sign (Fairly small)

King Haman. You may speak.

Haman Oh great one.. do you know there are people in this land who do not follow our laws properly. They are not like the others. We should have them killed.

King They must be evil. We will do so. Issue the order.

Exit. Scene where a number of puppets come on stage, weeping, what will we do etc and then move to side. Esther and Mordecai enter.

Esther The only way for our people to live is for me to see the King. Why does he think Jews are bad?

Mordecai There are instructions that if any Jew goes into the Kings presence they will be killed. But if you remain silent you and your family will perish. Maybe God has placed you in this position.

Esther Get others together and pray for me.

Both exit. "Little Later" sign. King is on-stage.

King You are welcome. What is it Queen Esther?

Esther Dear King, I have prepared a banquet for you and Haman. Can we dine together?

King So be it.

Puppet waiters on... with food etc. they eat..... Yummm yummm etc.

King What is your request?

Esther If it pleases the King I would like him to come to another special banquet tomorrow.

King Well the way to my heart is through my stomach.... Tomorrow then.

Both exit. "Little Later" sign. King is on-stage. King lies down. Snores. Wakes Up.

King I can't sleep. I've tried sheep, furbies, camels ... nothing works. What book can I read..... Bring me the chronicles.

Puppet comes on stage with massive book

Servant Here you are o great enlightened one, the history of the kingdom

King Oh dear... Oh dear... hmmm... interesting. I read here about Mordecai how he saved me from being killed, but I think that we did not reward him.

Haman enters

King Who is in the court?

Haman I am sire

King What do you think we should do for a person that the King wants to honor

Haman **(aside)** The King wants to praise me! What a day. I will get rid of my enemy Haman on the gallows I built and get my reward!
(to King) Put on him the robe of honor and parade him through the streets.

King Do so.. call Mordecai and honor him

Haman exits.. grumbling, Esther enters with servants carrying food

King **(eating noises at first)** What great grub queeno. Now, what is your special request.

Esther If I have pleased you then save my people. We are to be sold and killed all because of one man!

King Who is he?

Esther Haman

King What.... I see now he was just trying to trick me.....Then.... Hang him on the gallows I see out of the window.

Characters freeze. Chant over “Small lies grow to big lies and eventually something dies!!!!”

The Wolf

On the left hand side of the stage are some sheep. Boy enters on stage.

Boy How I wish I could be doing something else. The same thing day after day. Stupid sheep. What's the use of being a shepherd. Supposed to look after sheep and nothing ever happens! I should... hmmmmmmmm

Runs across stage down and up to other side, yelling as he goes. Up pop the shepherds.

Boy The wolf.... The wolf is attacking the sheep

Shepherd1 We must save them. How big is he.

Boy This high this high (He jumps up and down). Shining wicked teeth and he's carrying mint sauce.

Shepherd2 It's worse than we thought... quick

They all run to the other side. Look around

Shepherd3 Where is it?

Boy It must have gone. That wicked wolf must have seen us coming.

Shepherd2 Well keep a close eye out. Yell again if you see it.

Shepherd3 Good job Son

Shepherds move off to other side of stage

Boy Well, that was fun. They really fell for that one. I'll try again.

Runs across stage

Boy The Wolf, the wolf. He's big and hairy and he's carrying hot curry spices. He'll rip the sheep to pieces.

Shepherd2 Quick we must hurry

Shepherd1 I hope we are in time. Strange it should happen twice in the same day.

They get to the other side of the stage

Shepherd3 Thank goodness the sheep are all right. They don't seem to be afraid. It's almost as if.....

Shepherd1 They certainly don't seem worried

Boy Probably the wolf took off when he heard you brave shepherds were coming

Shepherd3 Back to fence mending boys

Shepherd2 What do you reckon... what I'm thinking lads is...

Shepherd3 Yes, he's trying to pull the wool over our eyes.

Shepherd1 That lad. Giving us the run around. He certainly had us hoofing it over there.

Scene swaps to boy

Boy Well, so much fun in one day. I think I'll have them on again
Wolf enters on stage. Encourage audience participation of 'the wolf'

Boy What wolf, I don't see one... can't trick me.
He sees the wolf. Is terrified

Boy It really is... the... the... wolf... what shall I..... need help
Runs across stage

Boy The wolf he's really here. He's going to attack the sheep

Shephard1 I suppose he's carrying the tender cut labels

Shephard2 or he's got the instant sauce packet, water, microwave jug
and microwave huh

Boy No... he really is real.. I saw him.. big... horrible

Shephard3 We've got fences to mend
All characters freeze
Backstage effects from voices... like a shark attack

Voices do...do...doo.do...dooo....do...dooo do tell it straight

Dropped in it

Girl on stage.

Girl It's nearly a goal... she moves left moves right... she's going for the big shot

Races around madly! Knocks vase/plate to floor, it breaks! Parent comes on.

Father How did that get broken. What were you doing?

Girl I was just watching T.V. The wind blew through the window and it fell on the floor.

Father Are you sure?

Girl Yes

Father Well, lets pick it up.

They exit. Mother comes on stage, followed by father.

Father I'm sure she's not telling the truth

Mother It's been happening a lot lately.

Father It makes it hard to trust her

Next Day sign. Girl comes on stage

Girl I don't know how it happened. Mum... are you there.

Mother Hi Sarah. Have a good day at school

Girl Not really. I had to see the principal today. Marta, stole some chips from Janes lunch and put them in my desk.

Mother I wondered what you were going to say. I've just got off the phone from talking to Mrs Jamieson. She has a very different story. Says that lately she's caught you out in a number of lies at that this is one of your worst. And you know, we really are feeling let down here

Girl But it's not true. Marta is the one who is lying. Not me... I don't..I'm not.

Mother What about the vase yesterday?

Girl I didn't....

Pauses and stops

Mother Yes?

Girl Well that was a lie... but this isn't

Mother You've made it so hard for us to know the truth... when can we believe you. I'd like you to go to your room for a bit.. do your homework and when Dad gets home we'll both want to talk to you.

Mother leaves

Girl It's so messed up. Why doesn't anyone believe me?

Girl exits.

Commandment

First We're here to tell of a rule so true
Second A rule specifically designed for you
Third A rule that keeps you tough and strong
First And helps things go right instead of wrong
Third So when you're thinking it's just a little lie
Second Remember, God's rule.... And don't try

Read an honesty verse

Colours

Different characters with different colours, or placards with different colours or hair/hats of the different colours

Character 1 Red is the colour of tomatoes, sunsets, cricket balls, embarrassment. Like when you know you've made a mistake.

Character 2 Yellow.... Bananas, custard, sun, the feeling of not being well

Character 3 Green.... Beans and spinach

All characters go "blerch"

Character 3 Green is grass, trees, the colour that makes you think of peace...

Character 4 Black... the cat, night, black eyes, shining shoes, crows, coal, black panther, oilthe colour that reminds me of sin

Character 5 White... a sheet,

They all shout, "It passed the Nappisan test" (*or some sort of bleach well-known*)

Character 5 snow, lines on the road, paper, fridge, coconut, rice, wedding dress, icing.. white is the colour of the lie you tell when you think it's not really a lie

Verse from bible. I will wash...etc

At Work

3 characters on stage

- Mary Have you heard about Damion? Apparently he got hauled into the bosses office yesterday. He's been in there again. Down the road and I'll tell you why..
- Jack Why..
- Mary Because he said he had finished the contract, and I reckon he hadn't because that's why he cancelled the meeting where he was going to present the report.
- Marion I wondered about that. He's been under a lot of stress about it all too. Have you noticed he has been tired and not himself lately.
- Jack He left to go home early on a number of days. Throwing the sickly excuse I'd say.. shows he wasn't coping with it all. I offered to help one day but he just said he had other things on his mind. Last time I'll offer to help him.
- Marion Shush here he comes
- Damion Hi all. Little goss meeting, huh? (*joking*)
- Jack Just ahhh
- Marion Talking about what the social club should be doing for the next event
- Damion Uh huh. Looking forward to the BBQ. I'm out for five to pick up the final prints from the printers. See you.

Damion exits

- Mary That was a close one. Here's the boss.

Boss enters

- Boss I'd like to have a quick chat to you all
- Marion Told you... it'll all come out now.
- Boss Just had a talk with Damion. He's got the meeting with the clients back on schedule after the goof up at the printers. The negatives got lost in their system and couldn't get done on time. Didn't have time to update you lot yesterday, sorry about that. Hope you'll be OK first thing tomorrow again.
- All Yes, should be fine etc.
- Boss Oh and one other thing. Damion said it was Ok for you guys to know. His father had a stroke the other day, which is why he's had to take off out the last few days. I thought you should know so you can help support him. I called him in yesterday and told him to take the rest of the day off, especially as the presentation timing was changed.

Marion We wondered what was wrong. Thought it was something personal like that.

Jack What's the story?

Boss Looks like his Dad will be OK. It was a bit touch and go. Amazing that Damion has been able to keep on top of things around here at the same time.

Mary He's great at what he does

Jack We all want to help

Boss Sure. Well (*looks at watch*) I've got a 9:30 appointment on the way.

Boss exits

Marion Well, we sure got it wrong.

Jack They really should keep us better informed

Mary Yeah... how are we to know about these things. We never get told what's going on. Do you know last week.....

They all exit off stage

Kia Kaha (A Maori phrase for standing tall and strong like a tree)

Trees on stage... backdrop of forest? Four characters enter. Bird sounds.

Character 1 What a great day for a hike. The sun...("shine, shine" voice over) the birds ("tweet, tweet"), the trees ("grow, grow")

Character 2 The smell of the country ("moo, moo")

Character 3 Watch out for...

Character 1 Oh thanks (*sarcastic*)... look what I've stepped in. (*Stops, and looks up*) Wow... Still... just look at these trees.

Character 4 Massive, ginormous, leviathan, monster, immense, bulky, colossal, mammoth, giant.....

Spins around and around and falls to the ground as he says it all

Character 2 All right Brains... we get the picture

Character 1 Did you guys know that these trees remind me of us...

Character 3 How's that?

Character 1 Well... we all stick together for each other, (*all puppets zoom together*) we all are proud of the fact we are Christians (*we love Jesus signs*), we all want God to help us stand tall and straight... like these trees (*They all stand up tall*)

Character 2 Kia Kaha

Character 3 What do you mean?

Character 2 Means stand tall and strong. Like us. We need to keep our roots in God... be strong for God, be strong for good and not give in to those things God would not want us to do.

All Right on... good one... let's be strong.

They exit singing "Our God is so big so strong and so mighty" 4 is still looking at a tree. Hugs it.

Character 4 Tough, courageous, resilient, bold, audacious, daring, adventurous, intrepid... God you know all the rest of the words... I ask for your Spirit to make me strong for you. Strong to say yes, strong to say no, strong to be honest

Let's see now... sturdy, tough, daring, gallant, brawny, burly

Exits from stage