

CHARACTERS

L/R from audience perspective

<i>Theo</i>	<i>off-stage narrator</i>
<i>Thomas (brown bearded man)</i>	<i>left</i>
<i>Hannah (girl)</i>	<i>centre</i>
<i>Peter (black bearded man)</i>	<i>right</i>
<i>King</i>	<i>top</i>
<i>Pharisee (white bearded man)</i>	<i>top</i>
<i>Angel</i>	<i>top</i>
<i>Mary (green woman)</i>	<i>centre</i>

Palm Sunday scenery

HYMN: GIVE ME OIL

SCENE 1: PALM SUNDAY

Thomas, Hannah and Peter up

Thomas droops head and snores loudly; Hannah giggles.

Peter What are you laughing at, Hannah?

Hannah It's Uncle Thomas. He's snoring!

Thomas snores again; Hannah giggles.

Hannah Shall I wake him up?

Peter No. Let him sleep. He's probably having a nice dream. We'll wake him in a few minutes.

Hannah Ok. Shhhh...

Hannah and Peter down

Theo Peter was right. Thomas *was* having a nice dream. It was all about an exciting new King, and how he was going to set his people free.

King up

King Hurray for me! I'm so strong and powerful! The Jewish people have been ruled by the Romans for too long. But I will set them free. I'll raise up an army and kill anyone who gets in my way! And the bravest man in my army will be Thomas ...

Peter shouts from off-stage:

Peter Thomas! Wake up! It's time to go!

King down

Thomas straightens up.

Hannah up

Hannah Come on, Uncle Thomas. We're going to Jerusalem. Hurry up!

Thomas and Hannah down

Theo So off they went - Thomas and Peter, and Jesus' other friends - all of them heading to Jerusalem, with Jesus riding on a donkey. Thousands of people were in Jerusalem for the Passover festival. They were remembering when God had saved them from slavery in Egypt. They were hoping that he would set them free again now.

Thomas, Hannah and Peter up

Thomas Stay close to me, Hannah. This crowd is enormous.

Peter And just listen to them, Thomas! All cheering and shouting for Jesus.

Thomas And look at them waving palm branches, Peter!

Hannah What's happening? I don't understand.

Peter Can't you hear what they're shouting, Hannah?

Hannah Hosanna to the King! Hosanna to the King who comes in the name of the Lord!
But what does it mean?

Thomas It means that Jesus is the King! It means that he's been sent by God to set us free!

Hannah Really? Jesus is amazing, Uncle Thomas. I know that. But he doesn't *look* like a King.

Peter Don't be silly, Hannah. We know for sure that Jesus is a new King, sent by God to set his people free from these Romans.

Hannah But how can he do that? Jesus isn't a soldier. He's riding a donkey, not a war horse.

Thomas Don't be silly, Hannah.

Peter Hosanna! Blessed is the King of Israel!

Thomas Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

Pharisee up

Pharisee Hey - Jesus isn't a King! Jesus, tell your followers to stop saying that.

Theo But d'you know what Jesus answered? He looked straight at that cross man, and he told him that if his friends kept quiet then the stones in the road would burst out cheering!

All down

HYMN: BLESSED IS THE KING WHO COMES

Last Supper scenery

SCENE 2: THE LAST SUPPER

Theo Jesus knew that not everyone liked him. He knew that some people were so cross with him that they wanted to kill him. But he still had his special friends. And later that week, they all got together for dinner.

Thomas, Hannah and Peter up

Peter I can hardly wait to see what Jesus does next. Surely he's planning something big.

Thomas And we're going to be part of it! Even if I have to die with him, I'll follow wherever he leads.

Hannah Uncle Thomas, I don't understand.

Thomas What is it, Hannah?

Hannah Well, you say that you'll follow wherever he leads. You say that Jesus is your leader. So why is he behaving like a servant?

Thomas Don't be silly, Hannah. Jesus isn't a servant.

Hannah So why is he washing everyone's feet? That's a servant's job. It's disgusting. Our feet are all dirty from the road. And why did he tell us to wash each other's feet? Yuk!

Peter You heard what he said. He is always kind and looks after other people. Now he wants us to copy him. He wants us to be kind and try to look after each other, just like he does.

Hannah But then he said that one of you would betray him. That makes no sense. I thought you're his best friends.

Thomas And so we are. I know that I'll never doubt him.

Hannah How can you be so sure, Uncle Thomas?

Thomas Don't be silly, Hannah. I would never doubt Jesus.

Peter And I'll tell you one thing for sure: even if everyone else lets him down, I'll never leave him.

Hannah Uncle Thomas, there's something else I don't understand. Every Passover we eat the bread and drink the wine, to remember how God saved us from slavery in Egypt. But Jesus said that from now on the bread and the wine will help us to remember *him*. What does he mean?

Thomas I think it's a promise: a promise that he'll save us. Just like God saved our people so long ago. Jesus is going to save us again.

Hannah I still don't understand. How is he going to save us? When he broke the bread just now, he said that his body is going to be broken, too. Is Jesus going to die?

Peter Don't be silly, Hannah. Of course not. Jesus won't have to die. You'll see.

Theo But poor Hannah was still very worried. The problem was, she hadn't listened to *everything* that Jesus said. She hadn't listened when Jesus said, "Don't be afraid. I will never leave you."

All down

Theo The next day, Jesus' enemies killed him on a cross. It was a very sad day for his friends. They didn't know that God had planned a wonderful surprise for them. They still didn't know what a great big God he is.

HYMN: OUR GOD IS A GREAT BIG GOD

Easter Sunday scenery

SCENE 3: EASTER SUNDAY

Theo After Jesus died, his friends put his body in a special cave. They rolled a huge stone in front of the cave. There were guards in front of the stone. Nobody could get in or out.

Angel up

Angel Nobody, that is, except an angel! On the third day after Jesus died, God sent me from heaven and I rolled away the stone.

Theo The guards fell over in shock! And when Jesus' friend Mary came to the cave that morning, she had a surprise, too!

Mary up

Mary Where's Jesus? Oh, what have you done with his body?

Angel Why are you looking for him in a cave? This cave is for dead people. Jesus isn't here.

Mary But where is he?

Angel Jesus is alive! Now go and tell his other friends. Quickly - go!

SONG: WHY DO YOU LOOK HERE FOR THE LIVING?

Mary & Angel down

Thomas and Peter up

Peter I keep thinking about Jesus. I feel so sad.

Thomas Me, too. I miss him.

Mary up

Mary Peter, come quickly! Jesus is alive!

Thomas Alive? How can he be alive? We saw him die.

Mary I went to the cave. His body's gone. And an angel told me that he's alive.

Thomas But that's impossible.

Peter No, Thomas. I don't think it is. I'm beginning to think that nothing is impossible for our great big God!

All down

Theo Peter understood at last. God's amazing plan had come true. Jesus had died on the cross - but then he came back to life again. Why? Because he loves us so very much.

HYMN: I KNOW JESUS LOVES ME

House scenery

SCENE 4: THOMAS

Thomas, Hannah and Peter up

Peter I'm so full of joy! I want to dance and sing! Jesus is alive!

Thomas So you say.

Hannah But he is, Uncle Thomas! Mary's seen him, and Peter, and ever so many people.

Thomas Don't be silly, Hannah. You don't understand. Jesus is dead. And dead people don't come back to life.

Peter But, Thomas, it's true. I've seen him myself.

Thomas Well, until I see him for myself, I won't believe it.

Hannah Can't you trust Jesus without seeing him, Uncle Thomas?

Thomas Don't be silly, Hannah.

Thomas, Hannah and Peter down

Theo Jesus alive? Thomas needed to see it to believe it - and that's just what happened. A week later, when Jesus' friends were gathered together, he came to them again. This time, Thomas was with them.

Thomas, Hannah and Peter up

Thomas Jesus is alive! I've seen him for myself! He is my Lord and my God!

Peter Yes, it's really true. And it's such very good news!

Hannah Uncle Thomas, I'm still worried.

Thomas What is it, Hannah?

Hannah When I think about how much God loves me, it makes me wish I never did anything to hurt him. It makes me feel sorry for the times when I'm naughty.

Peter You're not the only one, Hannah. We've all done things we know we shouldn't have.

Thomas Even grown-ups get things wrong.

Peter But God never stops loving us.

Thomas He loves us so much, that he sent Jesus to die on the cross, to take the punishment for all the wrong things we do.

Peter So all we need to do is say sorry, and really mean it, and we can be friends with God again.

Thomas *And* he will help us when we keep trying to be good.

Peter God never lets us down.

Hannah Wow! Do you mean that God never stops loving us, no matter how much we mess up?

Peter Yes, Hannah. That's just what I mean. The good news is that God always loves us.

Thomas He always looks after us.

Theo And he always listens when we pray. We're going to say a prayer now to Father God. Say the words together, after me.
Father God, we come to say ...

All Father God, we come to say ...

Theo ... thank you for your love today.

All ... thank you for your love today.

Theo Thank you for my family ...

All Thank you for my family ...

Theo ... and all the friends you give to me.

All ... and all the friends you give to me.

Theo Guard me in the dark of night,

All Guard me in the dark of night,

Theo and in the morning send your light.

All and in the morning send your light.

Theo Amen.

All Amen.

All down

HYMN: LORD OF THE DANCE

THE BLESSING