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Preface

Church drama has come in and out of fashion just in my lifetime (which is not *that* long), as we continually re-define Worship Services. But let's not write off something that our youth can shine at. Kids can have trouble learning lines, and adults have too many inhibitions, but teens? They just love to hang out and have fun. So throw them a script and watch them steal the limelight. Then watch them come back for more.

Jesus told Parables to explain topics like the Kingdom of Heaven and Grace to those around Him. In an odd sort of twist, Jesus said that He used Parables so that those who could understand *would* and those that couldn't would remain none the wiser. A bit like telling a story in a foreign language! But Jesus' reason was that He wanted people to fully understand what He was saying, not just hear the story; Jesus wasn't there to tell cute stories.

Preface

And we're not here to act out cute dramas, either. The dramas in this book are modern adaptations of the Parables Jesus told: same lesson, just in today's language and setting. These are the lessons we want our youth to understand, and what better way to explain them than to have them act them out? You soon won't recognise the youth of your church, in more ways than one.

Introduction

Hey, you've formed a drama group, or at least you're thinking about it. You love watching drama and figure, 'how hard can it be?' Let me reassure you: it's not that hard.

Give each of your group a script and spend at least one session just reading the parts and having fun. You might decide to swap parts at some point, because a character just isn't working. When you're happy with everyone's character then give your team time to learn their lines and come back together in a week. Run through the drama a few times, then take a few minutes to discuss props, position of props, and any costumes you might want to use. Finally, run through a couple more times and you're ready for the dress rehearsal. Bravo!

With each drama I have given some extra suggestions on how it could be staged, including ideas for costumes and stage props. But at the end of the day it's your choice whether it's staged as

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an impromptu sketch or a fully costumed extravaganza. If you have an arts student in your midst they may enjoy the challenge of props, but don't try achieving what's a battle; with great acting the audience will just imagine.

The Bible verse with each drama may be read out some time before the drama starts (perhaps with choruses sung in between), or it may be read out just as the performance begins. Or it may be left out altogether.

The casts for all the dramas are small, to enable them to be performed by just a handful of youth. In most cases the genders can be changed to suit the actors you have available, with the possible exception of *The Nugget*, which wouldn't work with female characters. But there's no reason you can't use actresses to play blokes: just dress them appropriately.