KIDS GAMES DRAMA

**Draft of Day 1 Drama:**

T: Wow! That was wonderful! So funny! I was sure you were going to chop off his hair(?) And his face when you.......(talks about act).....it was soo funny! (Raves on a bit). Finally sees that clown not really listening. (goes over and taps her on the shoulder) Hey. It was really good you know.

C: Yeah. Iʼm a barrel of laughs (sighs loudly)

T: Oh. Whatʼs wrong?

C: (looks up) Oh, donʼt worry about me kid. Hey! Youʼre new around here arenʼt you?

T: Yes I am. The ringmasterʼs given me a job feeding the animals. ....And cleaning out their pens ...PHEEW! (holds nose)

C: Wow. Thatʼs a tough job. Whyʼd a kid like you take on that one?

T: (hesitates)...Well..I suppose I needed the money. You see I left home...it was so boring there....and I wanted to see the world, do different things...have some fun!

C: So you decided to clean up elephant poo? I can see thatʼd be fun (looks to audience and makes crazy sign)

T: No.....well not straight away. See at first I had lots of money. I asked my dad for my share of the inheritance ....so I had heaps of money. I travelled, went to parties, ate at the best restaurants, bought new clothes....did everything I wanted to I guess. I had lots of friends and we ate icecream and pizza every day......but.......(looks down)

C: But what? T: But...well then I finally ran out of money.

C: You mean you spent it all ? Everything your dad gave you? He gave you half of every thing he owned...and you spent it....on pizza??

T: And icecream.....Yeah. He did tell me to be careful how I spent it, but I guess I didnʼt listen......so when I ran out of money, my friends didnʼt seem to be able to lend me any......I didnʼt have any where to go.....didnʼt know what to do really.....then I saw your sign - KIDSGAMES CIRCUS !... and I asked the ringmaster for a job.........and here I am. I thought Iʼd be happy here - but now Iʼm not sure. Its pretty hard work. (frowns) Isnʼt everyone happy at the circus?

C: Hey. Cheer up! (produces bunch of trick flowers) Yeah. Sure they are....

T: Well arenʼt they? C: Sure! I said so didnʼt I? Look at this face. Canʼt you see the big smile?

T: Oh but thatʼs just painted on. But clowns are happy arenʼt they? You make everyone else laugh! Isnʼt that why you have the makeup?

C: Well, actually I donʼt like the makeup. And Iʼd love to take it off....but I canʼt! T: Canʼt? Why not?

C: Well. You said you ran away from home cos you were bored, right? Your dad didnʼt want you to go?

T: I guess not...I mean he said I could and everything, ....but he seemed sad about it ..... C: Yeah. Well, I ran away to the circus too. But I had to. Iʼm HIDING from MY family. T: But why? What happened?

C: I did something wrong and I felt terrible about it. I crashed my dadʼs car! It was his pride and joy. He really loved it. And I just took it one day (just borrowing you know, I was going to bring it back)...but then this truck suddenly JUMPED into the middle of the road from nowhere and WHAM!! that was it. One squashed car!

T: And you couldnʼt fix it?

C: No one could fix this! It was smashed to pieces. I knew my dad would never forgive me. so I just freaked out and ran away! I became a clown so I could hide under this makeup and no one would know me. Youʼre lucky if your dad wanted you to stay. I could never go home.

T: Oh thatʼs really sad! Are you sure about that? What if you said you were sorry?

C: I donʼt think that would help. Its too big a mistake. And I canʼt fix it. I couldnʼt fix the car.

T: (sitting down) You know my dad used to tell me a story about a time when some people brought a lady to Jesus who had done something wrong. And they wanted Jesus to punish her and to say that God would not forgive her - they said it was too big a mistake.

C: Really? And what happened. T: Well, have a look and see (or it was like this....( paintings to tell story?) Story John 8

T: So you see my dad said that with God nothing is impossible. He said that if God gave us Jesus - the most precious thing to him - why would he refuse us anything else? Maybe you should pray about it. Maybe your family could forgive you just like God does.

C: Wow do you think thatʼs possible? T: Sure! Nothing is impossible with God!

C: Well - Iʼm going to think about that! ( goes to exit, then turns back) Hey! Maybe I wouldnʼt have to hide any more. (exits)

T: Thatʼs it! J: (comes in sweeping with large broom) So....life was too boring at home was it? T: Well, it was sometimes.....not always I guess. J: hmmm....... cool story your dad told. Tell lots of stories did he?

T: (enthusiastically) Oh yes! Heʼs a wonderful story teller........at least he was....he told lots of wonderful stories about Jesus. At night, when weʼd finished our work.... oh no WORK!! I forgot to feed the elephants!!!! Got to go! (runs off)

J: (to audience). Sounds like a pretty nice dad to me......why would you want to run away from a family like that? Beats me.....but then, Iʼm only the janitor, .... what would I know?

**Draft of Day 2 Drama:**

See him bend bars of iron! See him karate chop through planks of wood! Ringmaster introduces Krusher Kev and gets him to do some feats of strength for the kids.

Bending an “iron” bar and chopping through blocks (pre cut)

Have bar bells real and fake and get volunteer kids to try and lift the real ones while Krusher Kev has fake ones.

tear up a phone book tug of war with very small children

After act is finished Krusher Kev is sitting at the side of stage. Looks in mirror and twirls ends of his moustache. Does some curls with a weight and gets small children to feel his biceps.

Janitor enters sweeping broom. Tries to clean up Kevʼs weights but is unable to move them.

J: Ahhh, excuse me. Mr Krusher sir. I wonder if you would be able to move these weights for me? I just need to clean up here before the next act.

K: VVat? Me clean up? Never! I am an artist! I am the strongest man in the world! I donʼt clean up!

J: Oh,well, I donʼt really need you to do the sweeping or anything. If you could just left these heavy weights?

K: Itʼs an outrage! I do all the hardest work around here! Who is it that pulls the ropes to pull up the centre pole of the big top? Who has to lift the circus tent from its trailer? Who pulls out the trailers when they are stuck in the mud? No one else is strong enough! It is me! Who is strong enough to lift the elephantʼs foot when she gets her toenails painted? (turns on janitor) And who lifts all the things around this place that YOU are to weak to budge?! Its me I tell you! Krusher Kev the magnificent.

(slumps down again) I should get a pay rise - all the work I have to do. In fact, I do so much of YOUR WORK THAT I SHOULD GET YOUR PAY!

J: Hey! Hold on there. I do some work around the place you know. Thereʼs my sweeping. And I pick up the rubbish after all the messy visitors (waves at the audience) to the circus have gone home. And I keep all the caravans tidy.

K: But who asked me to carry the heavy rubbish bins for him yesterday? Hmmm.

J: Well. Yes. I did ask for your help Mr Krusher, sir. But thatʼs only because youʼre so much stronger than me.

K: (whirls around pointing) My point exactly!

J: But being the strongest isnʼt everything is it?

K: Of course it is! Its the only thing there is! Iʼm going straight to the ringmaster to tell him that Iʼm demanding you pay as well as mine! (storms off)

J: (tries to budge the dumbbells again without success and sits down on them wearily0 I suppose heʼs right. He is stronger, and younger. He is able to do more around the circus than me. I guess he really is more important.

T: (enters) Whoʼs more important than what? Hi Jake! What are you doing with Kevʼs dumbbells? Are you thinking of trying out for his job?

J: Oh no, I could never do that! Quite the opposite in fact. Heʼs just been telling me that heʼs worth much more pay than I am, that heʼs more important than I am - and I guess heʼs right. I am getting old. And I canʼt budge these. (tries to lift dumbbells again)

T: Here. Iʼll help. (they both try together without success - they flop down exhausted) Well, if he can lift these heʼs certainly very strong. Luckily God doesnʼt judge how important we are by what we can do compared to other people.

J: Really! He doesnʼt?

T: Not at all! My dad always says that the way God loves us and blesses us is based how good HE is, not on what we can do.

J: Well, I just hope the ringmaster agrees. Mr krusher has just gone off to tell the ringmaster that he should get paid MY wages as well as his own because he has done so much work around here.

T: Has he really! Now that reminds me of a story my father told me about some workers in the bible. Letʼs see if I can remember it. (gets some helpers from the audience to act out the story)

J: But I donʼt understand. Why did they all get paid the same?

T: Its a story Jesus told to his disciples to show them that God blesses everyone equally. Its how good He is thatʼs the important thing. He wants to give us all one good thing after another, and its NOT up to what we do. All we have to do trust him.

J: Gosh Thatʼs wonderful. God loves me just as much as Krusher Kev?

T: Yes. God loves you bot SO much. Heʼs made you different, but he loves you equally - a whole lot.

J: Thatʼs a great thing to know. Thanks. Did your dad teach you that? T: Yes. He knows lots about God and his ways. J: He sounds like an amazing dad. Are you glad you ran away?

T: Yes. No.....I donʼt know. I thought I was . I had fun for a while. But now Iʼm not so sure. Actually I miss him and my brother a lot.

J: Maybe you should think about going home.

T: Oh I couldnʼt do that. Not after everything Iʼve done. Oh Look 10 OC! Time to feed the tigers!!! See you!

**Draft of Day 3 Drama:**

You make me want to be brave. Rom 8: If God is for us who can be against us. Ringmaster introduces Miss Felicity Flyhigh. He builds her up as the fearless fantastic flying trapeze artist. Can Amy swing in from side stage and do some trapeze work close to the ground?

Amid the cheers and claps from the crowd the Ringmaster tells people not to miss tonightʼs performance where the Fearless Miss Felicity Flyhigh will be performing her act on the grand trapeze!

Ringmaster leaves stage and felicity is left dangling. Tries to get down off trapeze but looks anxious and has a few abortive attempts.

(Enter Taryn)

T: Oh wow felicity! That was so amazing! Iʼm so looking forward to tonight! Iʼm going to try my best to get all my jobs done - feed the elephants, sweep up the elephant poo! Phew! Muck out the horses stables, feed all the other animals - so I can watch the whole thing.

F: (nervously looking down) Oh that sound s like a ....a.....lot of work. How are you likng your job?

T: (not noticing sheʼs nervous) Really? Well if you really want to know Iʼm getting quite sick of it. I just work all day - sun up to sun down - everybodyʼs really friendly and everything. But ...... well, its not like home. I mean there I had jobs and responsibilites and I worked hard. In fact I thought I worked really hard. But there was time for play and fun when my work was finished. Here....its just endless! Especially the elephant poo!

Work, work, work.... I guess it just wasnʼt what I was expecting when I ran away.

F: (leans over and nearly overbalances and swings around on trapeze) Whoaaaa! Whoa! Iʼm ok. It sound s like youʼre missing home.

T: Home? Well yes. Maybe I am....just a bit. (f. swings around again) Hey! are you ok up there? Why are you still up there?

F: Me?? Oh yes. Iʼm fine. (Tries to nonchalantly cross her arms and legs and whistle but nearly overbalances again) Whoaaa! Yes. Just fine.

T: But canʼt you come down now? Your act isnʼt until tonight.

F: Well.....the truth is ......I canʼt get down! Once Iʼm up here Iʼm so afraid of heights. I just canʼt look down, I think Iʼll fall! So I guess Iʼll just stay here for a while. (sighs)

T: Wait a minute! Afraid of heights!? But Youʼre The Miss Felicity Flyhigh, in fact the FEARLESS Miss Felicity Flyhigh! (holds up her poster)

F: Well. Donʼt believe everything you read!

T: What do you mean? Thatʼs you isnʼt it?

F: Well, Yes. But the truth is....Iʼm really afraid of heights! I love doing the acrobatics and twists and turns. But Iʼm frightened of climbing up so high.....(looks down fearfully) And Iʼm frightened of getting down again!

T: But youʼre amazing! Youʼre so talented! Iʼve seen your act before.

F: I can do all the tricks. Iʼve trained so hard - I know Iʼve done the practice. Its just when I get up so high... (waves hands agitatedly) ...I feel so afraid. (hangs head) I know its silly. But I canʼt help it. (sighs)

T: You know what my dad used to say to me when I was afraid? F: What?

T: He always said, “Taryn, do you know that there is someone who is always on your side?”

F: Did he mean HE was always on your side. He does sound like heʼs pretty amazing. Terry told me about some of his stories about Jesus.

T: No. Thatʼs not what he meant. Although, come to think of it, he was always around when I needed him. What he meant is that God loves us so much that HE is always on our side. He taught me this from the bible: “If God is for us who can be against us?” He also taught me another verse from the bible: “God has not given us a spirit of fear”

You see, God doesnʼt want us to be alone any more. He knows thereʼll be times when weʼre afraid - when we have to do something hard, or go to a new place where we donʼt know anyone. But he wants us to know that heʼs right there with us when weʼve asked him to be, and that heʼs always on our side. Think of that! The same God that made the whole universe says he is for us! Who COULD be against us?!

Youʼve done the training, you know your tricks. And know you know God is right there by your side.

F: Wow! Jesus right here with me. God on my side! Looking out for me! you know what? just knowing that God is on my side makes me feel (starts to climb higher) BRAVE!

**Draft of Day 4 Drama:**

Aims: Focus is on the lost one. She realises sheʼs made a mistake and that sheʼd really like to go home. But - sheʼs spent all the money (feels guilty, just like the clown did)

- feels like she doesnʼt deserve such a dad (feels unworthy, like the janitor did) - Feels afraid of what would happen if she went back (feels afraid, just like felicity did)

aim to revise concepts of the week She doesnʼt want to be lost anymore. She wants to be found in Godʼs mercy. A second chance is possible. She wants to be found in his grace. She knows she doesnʼt deserve the blessing of her family. But God has given her such a family because he loves her. She wants to be found in his strength. Knowing that God loves her and is watching over her and working for good in her life as she trusts him, makes her feel brave enough to go home. She wants to be found in her family, and Godʼs family again.

**Drama Day 4:**

(Enter Taryn, carrying stick with buckets on each end over her shoulders, drops them onto floor) Taryn: Phew! That was tough! Spring cleaning the monkeys cage! Theyʼre so naughty! Every time I sweep up, they throw all their things around again. Banana skins everywhere! Time for a rest! Phew! ( unties scarf from around her neck to wipe her face, pulls bottle of water out of back pocket and photo falls out as well) Taryn: Iʼm so thirsty! Hey (notices photo) Whatʼs that? (picks up photo and looks at it) Oh wow! Look at that! Its the farm where I live! (hestitates) I mean, where I USED to live. (goes silent) Gosh.... I havenʼt seen it for so long (shows some kids at front) See! Thatʼs where we used to go swimming when weʼd finished the dayʼs work.....(goes silent)...that was fun. (enter Terry)

Terry: Hey Taryn! Howʼs it going? Did you get out of that monkey cage alive?

Taryn: (still looking at photo) Hi Terry, Oh yes, It was fine. (looks up) You just have to have a BIG bunch of bananas with you when you go in....Hey! Look at this! I didnʼt even know I had it! It just fell out of my pocket!

Terry: What is it? (takes photo) Taryn: Its a photo of the farm where I lived with my brother and dad. See.. over there? Thatʼs the dam where we used to go swimming at the end of the day. My dad would throw me up SO HIGH in the air......It was so much fun.

Terry: You really do miss them donʼt you. Your family I mean.

Taryn: You know I DO! SO much! I guess I didnʼt really realise how much they meant to me when I ran away. I was so sure I was missing out on something big, so sure I wanted to run away.......but now I realise the only place I really want to be is....(takes photo back) ....home. I guess Iʼm really the one whoʼs lost.

Terry: Well.....why donʼt you quit the circus! Just do it! You can go home!

Taryn: Oh Terry...I just canʼt!

Terry: But why not?

Taryn: Oh, so many reasons! I feel SO GUILTY about what Iʼve done. I mean I took my share of the money...half of dadʼs farm! And I just went away and spent it! Not even on any thing important! I wasted it all on icecream and having “ fun “ - his whole savings! How could I go back?

(ENTER Clown, ?juggling)

Clown: Hey! But didnʼt you tell me about Jesus and how he forgave the woman in the bible who had done the wrong thing, and how he forgives us too? Your dad knows that story - he TOLD you that story! He knows that we are forgiven because of what Jesus has done for us.....thatʼs what you told me.....donʼt YOU believe it?

Taryn: Gosh I donʼt know! I believe it for YOU....do you think that I can be forgiven too, because of Jesus?

Clown: Sure you can!

Taryn: (starts to hope, but then falters) Maybe...but I feel so UNWORTHY. Not even worthy to be his daughter anymore after all the things Iʼ ve done and how badly Iʼve treated him. Heʼs such a great father. Too good for me.

Terry: But hold it right there! Didnʼt you tell ME that its not how unworthy or weak we are thatʼs important ...but how GOOD God is. You said we should never want to get what we deserve, because what Godʼs got in mind for us is so much better! I bet Heʼs got in His mind for you not to be lost anymore -- but to be FOUND - in your family, right back home!

Taryn: Yes. I did say that didnʼt I. And I know its true. I know God is good, and He wants to bless me much more than I deserve, but enough to have my dad welcome me home? Iʼm so AFRAID that he will be angry with me, that maybe he wonʼt want me in his family any more.

(Enter Felicity who flips onto her trapeze and does a spin)

Felicity: Afraid? Whoʼs afraid? Donʼt you know that the God of the whole universe is on your side? That He sent Jesus to die for us? You know what I always say - If God is for us who can be against us?

Taryn: Its me Felicity. Iʼm afraid. You see I DO want to go home. But Iʼm afraid of what my Father will say.

Felicity: Well, remember what you taught me from the bible? NOTHING can separate you from Godʼs love, and when you go home to meet your father, Jesus will be right there beside you. If you trust heʼs looking after you, heʼll make you brave.

Taryn: Oh thank you all so much! I WILL go home! Iʼm going to say sorry to my father for all that Iʼve done - it makes me feel better to know Jesus is going with me, and that nothing can separate me from Godʼs love.

You know what? I DO feel brave!

(exits. Start to play nooma type music and go to film clip)

Film: Feet close up walking on dirt road (sepia or black and white) Pans up to see fence and gate at top of hill.

light behind a figure leaning on the fence. Figure straightens up and shades eyes to look Walking Feet stop. feet then start to run father figure with light behind starts to walk and then to run meet in a big hug and daughter swings around ?see Tarynʼs face smiling over fatherʼs shoulder.