SLD
Spiritual Life Development

The Salvation Army
Eastern Territorial Headquarters
440 West Nyack Rd
West Nyack NY 10994

PLAYBILL®

Railton Hall

FIND YOURSELF

in the Story...



Dear Friends,

Welcome to **Find Yourself in the Story**!

Our hope for the Find Yourself in the Story series is that you, the listener, would engage in Jesus' final week on earth. This method of experiencing Scripture emphasizes the narrative aspect, the 'story' that we encounter in the Scriptures. Each daily Scripture passage will be printed here in the Playbill along with a list of the "Characters" featured in the story. At the appropriate time in the program, the daily Storyteller will take the Director's Chair and tell you that story.

This style of Scripture exploration is a very effective way to encounter familiar stories and passages in a new way. In this Spiritual Exercise, you are encouraged to insert yourself into the scene.

Don't just watch; participate. Can you imagine yourself as a disciple or a person in the crowd? As a leper or blind man, a sinful woman or righteous Pharisee? What is it like to experience these unfolding events as if you were there? If in your imagination you are no longer a passive observer but an involved actor in the scene, how does it affect your perception of the story? In particular, pay close attention to their emotions: what do you feel? Our emotional responses often give us important clues about the way the story is directly touching us – where we struggle with or rejoice in the gospel message. They may shape the way we want to respond to what Jesus is doing, even taking the story off in unexpected directions.

Go Deeper. Once you have heard the day's story, you will be invited to visit prayer stations depicting each of the characters. Find the character you most relate to. If you did not feel strongly linked to one of the characters, there is a station for "extras" (possibly a person in the crowd, one of the disciples in the account, but with no major part, a bystander, etc.) At each station, you'll find a short directive to guide your thoughts and prayers further into the story.

The Story of Us. You'll also find color-coordinated post-it notes on each table and the day's "Story Board" near the front of the room.

We'd like to ask you to consider writing a short sentence on that post-it note why you relate to the character. As this part of the experience is completely anonymous, the room will be open all day if you'd like to stop back later in the day to do this.

The more we post how our stories integrate into the Holy Week story, the more we'll see how connected our community is. We'll see how we celebrate the same things and how we face similar challenges.

Our prayer is that you experience Holy Week in a new way. So, sit back, relax and **Find Yourself in the Story**!

May Grace and Peace be yours this Holy Week,

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CAST



Owner of the House



Elizabeth



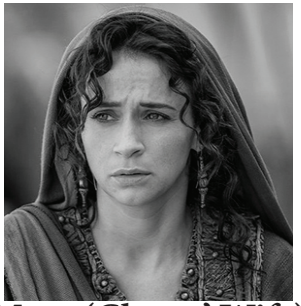
Soldiers



Mary Magdalene



Pontius Pilate



Mary (Clopas' Wife)



Mary (Jesus' Mother)



Extras

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Chief Priests & Teachers of the Law



Peter



Simon the Leper



James



Woman



John



Judas Iscariot



Man Carrying Jar of Water

FIND YOURSELF
in the Story...

ACT I
"The Anointing" (Mark 14:1-11)

Chief Priests & Teachers of the Law.....The Temple Authorities
Simon the Leper.....Owner of the House in Bethany
Woman.....An Anonymous Follower
Disciples/Extras.....Those Who Were Present
Judas Iscariot.....One of Jesus' Disciples

ACT II
"The Last Supper" (Luke 22:7-38)

Peter & John.....Close Followers of Jesus
Man Carrying Jar of Water.....An Anonymous Servant
Owner of the House.....A Man with Means
Apostles/Extras.....Those Who Have Traveled With Jesus

ACT III
"Gethsemane" (Mark 14:32-42)

Peter.....One of Jesus' Closest Disciples
James.....First Martyred Disciple
John.....The Beloved Disciple
Sleeping Disciples/Extras.....Those Who Followed Jesus to the Garden

ACT IV
"The Crucifixion" (John 19:16-27)

Soldiers.....Those Task with Carrying Out Orders
Pilate.....CEO of Judea
Chief Priests.....The Temple Authorities
Mary.....Jesus' Mother
Elizabeth.....Mary's Sister
Mary.....John the Beloved's Mother
Mary Magdalene.....Outcast Accepted by Jesus
John.....The Beloved Disciple

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In Order of Appearance

ACT I-"The Anointing"

Chief Priests & Teachers of the Law – The highest of skeptics, they are the institution of the day. They are sick of the religious nut Jesus and His followers. They are secretly working to find a way to capture Jesus and put Him on trial. The Chief Priests & Teachers have been previously seen in Matthew 2 (*The Magi Visit the Messiah*), Matthew 21 and Mark 11, (*Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King*)

Simon the Leper – One of the lepers that Jesus healed has opened his home to a celebration in Jesus' honor. When the Messiah gives you a second chance, you spend the rest of your days saying 'Thank You'. This is Simon's first appearance in the Gospels.

Woman – An anonymous follower, prompted by God to commit this intimate act of worship over Jesus. Her identity and her means are secondary to her act of total worship.

Judas Iscariot – This display is too much for Judas. Witnessing this act of worship pushes him over the edge and he sets himself as an opponent of Jesus from this moment on. Judas' debut appearance was in Matthew 10 (*Jesus Sends out the Twelve*).

"Those who were present" (disciples/Extras) – This time, the cynic is frighteningly close. The disciples lose sight of the moment and the act they are witness to. It's difficult to say that their motivations were completely lost, but Jesus sees the offering for what it is.

ACT II-"The Last Supper"

Peter & John – Close followers, tasked with preparing the Passover meal for the rest. Obedient followers who choose to serve others. Peter and John have a long history of working together since their first collaboration in Luke 5 (*Jesus Calls His First Disciples*). Other notable appearances are: Luke 8 (*Jesus Raises a Dead Girl and Heals a Sick Woman*) and Luke 9 (*The Transfiguration*).

Man carrying jar of water– An anonymous but important servant, tasked with a small part of a larger mission. At the right place at the right time to fulfill what is asked.

Owner of the House – A man of means who keeps things prepared. Willing to take the risk to house Jesus and his disciples. Until this appearance, Owner has participated only in community productions.

Apostles/Extras – Those who remain with Jesus throughout the journey. The others are backstage operators while the Apostles/Extras remain with and experience the ministry and continued teaching of Jesus.

ACT III-"Gethsemane"

Peter – The closest and still sometimes the farthest disciple. Even with the imperfections and impulsive behavior, Peter is among those that Jesus wants closest to him in this critical hour. Peter's previous appearances include solo work in Matthew 14 (*Jesus Walks on Water*) and Matthew 16 (*Peter Declares that Jesus is the Messiah*).

James and John – The brothers that have always been loyal. John is "the beloved" and considered the author, or the source, of the gospel of John, all 3 of the epistles of John and the book of Revelation. James would come to be known as James the Great, the patron saint of Spain and is considered the first apostle to be martyred for Christ. The brothers represent a lifetime of obedience and Holy living. The "Sons of Thunder" often appear together, most notably in Luke 8 (*Healing in the House of Jairus*), Luke 9 (*The Transfiguration*) and Mark 10 (*The Request of James and John*).

CAST

Continued

Sleeping Disciples/Extras – In this case, there are some who follow and do not understand what is about to happen. They are loyal followers, though not in the "inner circle". Some follow out of loyalty, some out of blind obedience, some because they don't know what else to do. They would rather be with Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane in the middle of the night than anywhere else.

ACT IV-"The Crucifixion"

Soldiers – Those tasked with carrying out orders, no matter what happens. Above all else, they dutifully embrace the values of the empire. The Soldiers have appeared in minor roles in Matthew 8 (*The Faith of the Centurion*) and Luke 3 (*John the Baptist Prepares the Way*). This is their first major appearance.

Pilate – The CEO of Judea. The highest authority in the region. Stuck in an impossible situation, always at odds between the Jewish temple authority and the Roman Empire. This is Pilate's first major appearance, but he's referenced in Luke 3 (*John the Baptist Prepares the Way*) and Luke 13 (*Repent or Perish*).

Chief Priests – The temple authorities seeking the crucifixion convinced they are protecting their faith and the institution. The Chief Priests were most recently seen in Mark 14 (*The Anointing*) and have also been previously seen in Matthew 2 (*The Magi Visit the Messiah*), Matthew 21 and Mark 11, (*Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King*).

Mary (mother of Christ)– A long way from a visit from Gabriel and a stable in Bethlehem, she is there for her son's final moments. She stands with a few who love among many who are full of hate. The beloved child star and Mother of Christ comes with a lifetime of appearances. Luke 1 (*Mary's Song*), Luke 2 (*The Birth of Jesus*), and many more.

Elizabeth – The loving aunt, there to support her sister (Mary). Elizabeth has appeared in Luke 1 (*Mary Visits Elizabeth and The Birth of John the Baptist*).

Mary (Clopas' wife, mother of John the beloved) – Another of the women that followed Jesus in his life, there for his death.

Mary Magdalene – Rejected and outcast by the rest, Mary was redeemed by Jesus' love and inclusion. Her imperfect life a perfect picture of grace. This is Mary's second appearance. She first appeared in Luke 8 (*The Parable of the Sower*).

John the Beloved – The poet disciple, standing near the cross, who received Jesus' mother (Mary) as his own. John is a Director's favorite and appears frequently with his brother James, and fellow fishermen turned followers Peter and Andrew. He is perhaps best known for the Gospel of John.

Special thanks to photographer James C. Lewis and Noire 3K Photo Studios for permission to use selected characters from his award-winning collection 'Icons of the Bible.'