

Special children's program – "Pedro's Birthday Party for Jesus"

We have found this to be very successful on a number of occasions, but especially so as an evangelistic outreach at Christmas time, using the help of children and youth who attend the church regularly or otherwise can help by preparing beforehand. The program consists of three scenes of a puppet play, interspersed with two skits acted out by children to narration; then followed by an altar call and a party for all the children. We used a portable puppet show. Here is the script for the puppet play:

Scene One

[Pedro enters and calls out to all the children]

Pedro Come and see! Come and eat! Everyone is welcome to our party!!

[The girl enters and goes up to him]

Girl What is this party?

Pedro It's a birthday party and EVERYONE is invited!

Girl But I don't know anyone who has a birthday today, and who would invite me if they didn't know me?

Pedro It's for my friend and he DOES know you, though maybe you don't know him yet.

Girl Well....but it doesn't seem right.

Pedro But he WANTS you to come. I've known him for many years and he's my best friend. He wants to be your friend too. Please come!

Girl No.....I'm not dressed for a party and...I don't have a gift to bring.

Pedro My friend doesn't ask for any gifts, only one – the gift of yourself. He wants YOU to come, just as you are, so you can get to know him. Please come; you'll be really blessed.

Girl Well, I guess I could come for a few minutes[enters house]

Pedro Welcome, welcome, these are some of my friends. Soon we will have cake.

Girl Hello, hello [looking around] ...er...where is your friend who has the birthday?

Pedro He's here, it's just that you can't see him.

Girl Oh dear, is he sick?

Pedro No, no....his SPIRIT is here, though his BODY is in heaven.

Girl Oh, I see....you mean he's....dead?

Pedro [laughing] Oh no!! He's very much alive!!

Girl I'm confused!!!!...I thought when someone died their BODY stayed on earth and their SPIRIT went to Heaven!!!

Pedro Well my friend is not just a regular person. He is VERY SPECIAL!! His name is Jesus Christ and he is the Son of God.

Girl I've heard people talk of Jesus Christ but I don't understand.

Pedro The Bible tells us how all through the Old Testament, God was preparing a people to learn of him and obey him. He gave them rules to follow, and sometimes they obeyed and were blessed. But many times they didn't obey and instead did things their own way. So God sent his own son, Jesus, to be born on the earth, and grow up and show people what God is like and how God wants us to live to please him.

Girl Ah, so this is his birthday and that is why you're having a party?

Pedro Yes, actually we don't know EXACTLY when his birthday was, but we celebrate it on December 25th. That's why that day is called Christmas Day, after Jesus Christ. Since many people celebrate then with their families, we are having a birthday party today.

Girl How many candles do you put on the cake? How old is Jesus?

Pedro Jesus was born about 2,000 years ago.

Girl Wow! Then how come he's still alive if he's so OLD!!!!?

Pedro His story is very special. Let me tell you about it. It all started about 2,000 years ago in a country thousands of miles away, called Israel, that back then was called Judea.....

[Pedro and the girl wander out]

[Narrator reads the Christmas story from Luke and Matthew while children in costume act it out]

Scene Two

[Pedro and the girl enter talking]

Girl That's a wonderful story about your friend Jesus Christ! He must really be someone very special to have angels telling people about him, and rich people bringing him gold and perfume! But I don't see why the king wanted to kill Baby Jesus and all the other little babies!

Pedro He was listening to the devil. The devil knows Jesus is the Son of God and he wanted to kill him before he could grow up. But the angel warned Mary and Joseph, and so Baby Jesus was safe. But years later, Jesus grew up and started telling people about God and how much God loves them; and he went around healing sick people. It made the devil mad again and he tried to have Jesus killed several times.

Girl If Jesus is the Son of God, why didn't he just beat the devil?

Pedro He did, but he had to do it in a special way, because he came to the earth to do more than just destroy the devil. He also came to make a way for people to be made right again with God. You see EVERYONE sins and disobeys God, just like all the people in the Old Testament did. They kept giving sacrifices to God to ask him to forgive them, but they still couldn't change and be good. So Jesus Christ became a sacrifice instead.....

Girl Aaaaah! You mean he DIED!?

Pedro Yes, he was the PERFECT sacrifice, because he NEVER sinned or disobeyed God, and yet he gave up HIS life so that God would forgive everyone else!!

Girl He must have loved everyone very much to die for them.

Pedro Yes he does! He wants EVERYONE to be right with God!

Girl How did Jesus Christ die then?

Pedro Some of the leaders of the country were jealous and afraid of him so they nailed him to a cross, just like a thief or bad person, and then he gave up his life. They buried his body in a cave, but his soul and spirit went down to Hell where all the dead people's souls were, and there he fought the devil himself.

Girl Aaaaah!! Who won??? Tell me, who won?!!!!

Pedro Well, Jesus Christ of course!! And he rose from the dead, his body became new and alive, and now he'll never die again!!

Girl Will his body get old?

Pedro No, because he won the victory over death and the grave, and his new body will last forever. Then he went up to Heaven to be with his father, God.

Girl So THAT is why his body is in Heaven!! Now I understand. This Jesus Christ is really someone special – to do all that for other people!

Pedro He told his followers to go everywhere and tell people about him, and that one day he's coming back to take us all to live with him in Heaven forever! All we have to do is believe in him and make him our Lord. He loves every one of us.

Girl EVERY ONE? I can't believe he really loves bad people too!

Pedro Well he does. Jesus doesn't want anyone to die and go to Hell. He wants them to change and become good and happy and follow him. When he was on the earth he told his friends a story to help them all understand just how much God loves people and wants them to come back to him. It's called the Prodigal Son, and if he told it today, it might go like this.....

[Pedro and girl wander off talking]

[Narrator reads an updated version of the Prodigal Son, adapted to fit the culture of the area, while children act it out in costume]

Scene Three

[Pedro and the girl re-enter]

Girl What a happy ending! He was such a stupid boy, but I believe he learned his lesson.

Pedro Yes, Jesus told this story to show us how happy our heavenly Father is when someone repents of their sins and turns back to Him. Some people may do "little" sins, like disobeying their parents or being jealous of others. Other people may do terrible things like robbing banks, or hurting and killing people. But to God sin is sin and EVERY sin makes a barrier between God and us. Everyone has sinned and there is NO-ONE that is TOO bad for God to love and want them to come to Him. If they admit their sins and ask God's forgiveness, and turn back to Him, He will always welcome them home – just like the father in the story!

Girl [Sadly] I, too, have done some bad things.....I have sinned....but I want to change and be like Jesus! Will God forgive me?

Pedro Certainly – that's exactly what the Bible tells us. We just need to pray. Let's go back here together and pray. Oh what a wonderful Christmas present for Jesus!!

[Follow with the children's minister or pastor giving an invitation to all the children to pray for salvation and accept Jesus as Lord, before everyone goes on to a party]