

The Parable of the Lost Toys

Written for St. Luke's Camp

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At the opening of the play, the Narrator crosses to the stage.

NARRATOR

Good morning. Welcome to our play. It is called “The Parable of the Lost Toys.” Here's how it begins.

Narrator crosses to the lectern.

NARRATOR (reading)

Once upon a time, there was a young boy named Jeremiah Isaiah Garcia-Smith. This is his bedroom. Kind of messy, don't you think?

It is.

Looks like he needs to clean it up.

MOTHER (offstage voice)

Jeremiah Isaiah Garcia-Smith! Get in here right now and clean your room.

Pause.

Now where is that boy?

NARRATOR

Where is that boy indeed! He is supposed to be here.

Calling out.

Hey, Jerry! Get in here. It's time for your entrance. Come on down!

Jerry enters.

JERRY

Me? You're calling me?

NARRATOR

Yes, we're calling you. It is time for your entrance.

JERRY

My...entrance?

NARRATOR

Yes, your entrance. You're appearing in a play. In fact, you're the star of the show.

JERRY

Me?

NARRATOR

Yes, you. This is a play about your life, at least a part of your life. People are here to see you.

JERRY

Me?

NARRATOR

Yes, you. These people are here to watch you. There they are. Look at them.

He does.

JERRY

Wow! They really are there. This is scary. They're here to see me?

NARRATOR

Yes, Jerry. They are here to see you. But even more, they're here to see the parable of the lost toys.

JERRY

Parable of the lost toys?

NARRATOR

Yes, Jerry. The parable of the lost toys. Your lost toys.

JERRY

But my toys aren't lost.

NARRATOR

Jerry's mother thought differently. She came into Jerry's room. She was on a mission. She addressed him by his full name.

MOTHER

Jeremiah Isaiah Garcia-Smith!

JERRY

Uh oh.

NARRATOR

That got Jerry's attention.

MOTHER

Jeremiah Isaiah Garcia-Smith, do I have your full attention?

JERRY

Yes, you do.

NARRATOR

Jerry's mother was very concerned about the state of his room. It was a mess.

MOTHER

Your room is a mess.

NARRATOR

She pointed out the clothes lying around.

The Mother points to various pieces of clothing.

She tsk-tsked about the socks under the chairs and the bed.

Mother makes "tsk tsk" sounds.

She was very upset about the school books that were on the floor. Books that may never have been opened.

MOTHER

Have you ever opened this math book?

JERRY

Yes. I opened it once.

NARRATOR

Jerry's mother was not happy. She lectured him about the importance of doing his school work, about picking up his clothes and about putting his toys away.

Mother pantomimes lecture (hands on hips, finger pointing).

Jeremiah Isaiah Garcia-Smith's mother also asked him to pick up his toys.

MOTHER

And be sure to pick up your toys.

NARRATOR

Jeremiah Isaiah Garcia-Smith's mother looked around. She was puzzled.

MOTHER

I am very puzzled.

NARRATOR

She said. Then she asked a very important question.

MOTHER

Where are your toys?

NARRATOR

Jeremiah Isaiah Garcia-Smith looked around his room. He shrugged.

He does.

JERRY

I don't know. They were here this morning.

MOTHER

Well toys don't just walk away. Find your toys and put them away. I don't want to step on any more toys. You remember what happened last year.

NARRATOR

Jeremiah Isaiah Garcia-Smith remembered perfectly what happened a year ago. He left one of his favorite toys on the kitchen floor. His mother didn't see it. She stepped on it. It was very painful. She cried out.

MOTHER

Ouch! That really hurt.

NARRATOR

Jeremiah Isaiah Garcia-Smith taped it back together as well as he could, but it was never as good as new. He was sad because it was one of his favorite toys. He was also sad because his mother had hurt her foot. He said he was sorry.

JERRY

I'm sorry.

MOTHER

Oh, I know you didn't mean it. And I am sorry your toy was broken. Just find your toys and keep them safe.

NARRATOR

Jeremiah Isaiah Garcia-Smith promised to take care of his toys. He promised to clean his room. He gave his mother a hug. And she started to leave the room.

She does.

But then she remembered something.

MOTHER

Oh, I just remembered.

She picks up the math book.

Would you mind opening this a second time?

NARRATOR

Jeremiah Isaiah Garcia-Smith looked at the math book. He took it from his mother's hands. Then he started to laugh. His mother couldn't help but smile.

She does.

He promised to open the book.

He opens the book. He even reads a little of it.

Jerry's mother sighs and exits.

NARRATOR

Jeremiah Isaiah Garcia-Smith...

JERRY (to the Narrator)

Just a minute...

NARRATOR

Uh...Are you talking to me?

JERRY

Yeah. Would you mind just calling me Jerry?

NARRATOR

Oh. OK. Sure.

JERRY

Thanks.

NARRATOR

The Narrator. That's me. Was mighty pleased. After all, Jeremiah Isaiah Garcia-Smith is quite a mouthful.

JERRY

You're telling me!

NARRATOR

So the Narrator. That's me. Was very pleased to just call him "Jerry." Jerry continued to read his math book. Much to his surprise, he found that it was pretty interesting. He began to solve a problem. He was very excited when he solved a very difficult math problem. He said "yes" and gave a knuckle punch to the air.

He does.

But then, something strange began to happen.

TOYS (offstage)

Psst...

NARRATOR

He heard a very unusual hissing sound. Jerry wasn't sure what it was. He asked if anyone was there.

JERRY

Hello? Is anyone there?

NARRATOR

He heard the sound again. This time, it was louder.

TOYS (offstage)

PSST!

JERRY

What is it?

NARRATOR

Jerry got a little scared. But he denied it.

JERRY

I'm not scared. Nothing scares me.

NARRATOR

But then he heard the sound again. It was very loud this time.

TOYS (offstage)

PSSSSSTT!!!

JERRY

Help! Help!! Don't let it get me!!!

NARRATOR

Jerry thought some creature was out to get him. He decided to hide. He covered himself with clothes that had been thrown around his room. He was so scared he shook.

Jerry shakes wildly.

It all looked pretty funny.

The toys laugh.

NARRATOR

But Jerry didn't think it was very funny.

JERRY

It's not funny!

NARRATOR

But it really was.

Jerry shakes. The toys laugh.

Jerry called for help.

JERRY

Help!

NARRATOR

But there wasn't anyone there to help him. Jerry felt very alone. But fortunately he had lots of toys. These toys were ones that Jerry had played with for many years. He loved the toys. But, over time, many of them had become broken. Some of them were even lost. But the toys never lost track of each other. They always knew where each other was and helped each other as best they could. They didn't mean to scare Jerry. But they were very playful. They entered Jerry's room very quietly. They held their fingers to their lips and tiptoed very carefully.

The TOYS enter and cross to Jerry's room. Each one has been broken in some way. There is a bird that has a broken wing, a boat with a hole in its hull and a doll that walks with a crutch, etc. They have been repaired (sort of). Some are duct taped together. But the repairs are not very good. Jerry isn't the best repairman.

The TOYS really liked Jerry. He had taken care of them for many years. But sometimes he was careless and his toys got broken. He left them out and people stepped on them.

The TOYS surround Jerry. They still hold their fingers to their lips and walk on tiptoe.

NARRATOR

But they toys always forgave Jerry. They knew he loved them and felt sad when they got broken. But they were toys and always liked to have fun. They decided to scare him.

TOYS

PSSST. JERRRREEEEE!!

NARRATOR

Jerry shook even more. The Toys couldn't help themselves. They started to laugh.

TOYS laugh.

Jerry didn't think it was funny.

JERRY

It's not funny. It's SCARY.

NARRATOR

The TOYS liked Jerry too much to scare him any more. They pulled the clothes off his head. This surprised Jerry and he screamed and called for help.

JERRY

Help! Don't let them get me.

NARRATOR

The TOYS laughed again and tried to reassure Jerry.

TOYS

Jerry. Don't be scared. It's only us. Look. Open your eyes.

Jerry opens his eyes. He looks at the toys.

The TOYS strike poses.

TA DAH!

Jerry stands up, smiles.

JERRY

Guys! It's you! I can't believe it! I thought you were lost! Where were you?

TOY BOAT

We were hiding.

JERRY

Hiding? Why were you hiding?

TOY SOLDIER

We were hiding because we're broken.

TOY BALLERINA

And we thought somebody might, you know, throw us away.

NARRATOR

Jerry felt very sad that anybody might want to throw his toys away. He reminded them that he had fixed them. He showed them that he put lots of duct tape on their broken limbs. But the toys, though they were thankful, showed Jerry that his repairs really didn't work. The TOY BIRD showed Jerry that she just couldn't fly.

TOY BIRD

I just can't fly any more.

NARRATOR

Jerry thought that was too bad. But he had never seen TOY BIRD fly.

JERRY

I never saw you fly.

NARRATOR

TOY BIRD took umbrage at that. That means she disagreed strongly with what Jerry said.

TOY BIRD

I know what "umbrage" means.

NARRATOR

Oh. Sorry. TOY BIRD took umbrage at what Jerry said. She crossed her arms over her

chest.

TOY BIRD crosses her wings over her chest and looks at the NARRATOR.

Pause.

NARRATOR

What?

TOY BIRD flaps her wings.

NARRATOR

Oh. Sorry. TOY BIRD crossed her WINGS over her chest. She told Jerry she used to be able to fly before he stepped on her wing.

JERRY

Well I tried to fix it.

NARRATOR

But TOY BIRD showed her broken wing. The other toys were very sympathetic. They all said Awww.

TOYS

Awww...

NARRATOR

Jerry told them all that he had done his best.

JERRY

Look, guys, I did my best.

NARRATOR

But the TOYS told Jerry that his best just wasn't good enough.

TOYS

Your best just isn't good enough.

NARRATOR

This made Jerry very sad, because he loved his toys.

JERRY

I love you guys.

NARRATOR

And Jerry began to cry.

JERRY

Sniffle...sniffle...

NARRATOR

The TOYS loved Jerry too and were very sad that he was crying. They crowded around him and thanked him for trying to fix them.

TOYS

Thank you, Jerry.

JERRY (still sniffing)

You're welcome.

NARRATOR

But the toys were still broken. Duct tape just didn't work very well. They all wondered what they were going to do.

ALL

What are we going to do?

NARRATOR

The TOYS didn't want to be thrown away.

TOYS

We don't want to be thrown away.

NARRATOR

Jerry had an idea.

JERRY

I've got an idea.

NARRATOR

The TOYS were all ears.

TOYS

We're all ears.

The TOYS gather around Jerry as he begins to tell them a story.

NARRATOR

Jerry told them about a book he read. This book told a wonderful story about healing. It told stories of Jesus and how he made the lame walk and the deaf hear and the blind see. The TOYS were amazed by this. They all said “wow.”

TOYS

Wow.

NARRATOR

They wondered where they could get a copy of this book, because they wanted to read it.

St. Luke enters.

NARRATOR

Suddenly, a stranger appeared. None of the TOYS had ever seen him before. Jerry thought he looked familiar, but he couldn't place him. The stranger had a long white beard and carried a walking stick in one hand. In his other hand, he carried a book. He looked like he was hundreds of years old.

ST. LUKE

I am exactly One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Fifty-three years old.

NARRATOR

The TOYS asked the stranger who he was.

TOYS

Who are you?

ST LUKE

You can call me Luke. I understand you mentioned my book. Well, here you go. You can have my copy.

NARRATOR

JERRY and the TOYS took the book eagerly. They were very happy to have a book that was all about healing. They wanted to learn all about somebody who could make the lame walk, the blind see and the deaf hear. They opened the book and gathered around to read it. They were excited to learn everything that was in it. They squinted at the pages. But something was wrong. They couldn't understand a word.

TOY 1

This is all Greek to us.

NARRATOR

Luke suddenly realized the problem.

ST LUKE

Oh, I forgot. My mistake. You all live in a different part of the world.

NARRATOR

Luke described how, when he lived in the ancient world, lots of people wrote in Greek. So this book was actually written in Greek. The TOYS were disappointed. They said so.

TOYS

We're disappointed.

NARRATOR

Luke was disappointed too. He wanted people to read his book. But he came up with a bright idea.

ST. LUKE

I know. I will tell you the stories. Gather around.

NARRATOR

The TOYS and JERRY sat down and watched as Luke told them the stories of the miracles.

Luke pantomimes telling the stories.

First, he introduced Jesus.

Jesus enters. He takes a bow.

NARRATOR

Luke explained that, whenever Jesus appeared, miracles happened. When people came close to Jesus, He healed them both physically and spiritually. Luke then told the story of the blind man.

Blind man enters, being led by others.

The blind man approached Jesus. Jesus took pity on the man, touched his eyes and the blind man could suddenly see.

BLIND MAN

Wow! I can see. I can see where I am walking. I can see where I am dancing.

The Blind Man does a little dance. He takes a bow. Jerry and the TOYS applaud.

NARRATOR

Next, a deaf man approached Jesus. Jesus took pity on the deaf man. He touched his ears and the deaf man could hear.

DEAF MAN

Wow! I can hear. Maybe I can even hear myself sing!

The formerly Deaf Man sings a few bars. It's not great, but the TOYS applaud enthusiastically.

Thanks. Maybe I need a little more practice. But you're very kind.

NARRATOR

Finally, a lame man approached Jesus.

Lame man crawls toward Jesus.

Jesus had compassion on the lame man. And suddenly, he was healed.

The Lame Man doesn't move.

And suddenly, the Lame Man was healed.

NARRATOR

Hey! You're healed.

LAME MAN

I'm what?

TOYS and JERRY

You're healed.

NARRATOR

But the Lame Man didn't believe it.

LAME MAN

I don't believe it. How can I be healed.

ST. LUKE

Because of Him.

LAME MAN

Him? Who's that?

TOYS and JERRY

Jesus!!!

Lame Man leaps to his feet in surprise.

LAME MAN

Jesus! That's Jesus? I always wanted to meet Him.

NARRATOR

Jerry and the TOYS looked at the Lame Man and laughed. He wondered why they were laughing.

LAME MAN

Why are you laughing.

NARRATOR

Everyone pointed to his legs.

LAME MAN

Oh! I don't believe it. I'm walking. Walking. I'm not lame any more. Yippee.

The formerly Lame Man struts his stuff. He walks one way, then tries another kind of walk, then a third kind of walk.

NARRATOR

The formerly Lame Man learned there are lots of ways to walk. And he decided he liked walking a whole lot.

LAME MAN

I'm never going to stop walking. I love it.

TOYS and JERRY applaud.

NARRATOR

Each of them thanked Jesus.

They do.

Then they all took Jesus out to lunch.

DEAF MAN

It's the least we can do.

They exit.

NARRATOR

The TOYS and JERRY watched them go. They all sighed deeply.

They do.

They were very happy for the Blind Man, the Deaf Man and the Lame Man.

They all smile.

But then, they were sad. Because they were still broken. And they were afraid they might be thrown away. They all shook in fear.

The TOYS all shake in fear.

NARRATOR

They didn't know what to do. But then, one of them had an idea.

TOY BOAT

Hey, if Jesus could heal those people, maybe He can fix us, too.

NARRATOR

The TOYS thought that was a great idea. They became very excited. They thought about how they would feel if they were made as good as new. They all sighed and said: "as good as new."

TOYS

As good as new.

Jesus enters, followed by St. Paul, who is writing.

NARRATOR

Jesus had overheard their wishes and He returned from lunch. He was followed by St. Luke. Yes, Luke eventually became a saint. But that's another story. St. Luke wrote down everything Jesus said and did because, as we know, he wrote books about Jesus. Even though they were written in Greek, they have been translated so we all can read them.

JERRY

I have a copy.

ST. LUKE

How can you have a copy? I haven't finished writing it.

JERRY

Well, I live in the twenty-first century.

ST. LUKE

Oh, right.

St. Luke signs Jerry's book.

ST LUKE

Here you go.

JERRY

Thanks.

NARRATOR

Jerry was very happy, but the TOYS were worried. After all, they were only toys. They wondered if Jesus would heal them.

TOY 2

Excuse me, Sir.

JESUS

You can call me Jesus.

TOY 2

OK. Jesus, sir. We were wondering. You see, we're all broken.

They toys hold up their broken wings and point to their damaged hulls, etc.

And we were wondering...

TOY 3

We know you heal people. But can you fix toys/

NARRATOR

Jesus explained that...

JESUS

It's ok. I can handle this.

NARRATOR

Great. Go for it!

JESUS

Of course I can fix toys. Toys have made Jerry very happy. And I like it when my people are happy. Luke, would you give me a hand?

Jesus and St. Luke remove the duct tape, splints, crutches and whatever other repairs Jerry has made to his toys.

NARRATOR

The toys were very happy. They cheered loudly.

They do.

Then, they danced, sailed and did all the wonderful things that toys do. Jerry was very happy.

JERRY

Guys, you're back. As good as new!

TOYS

As good as new!

NARRATOR

Jesus had one more thing to say.

JESUS

“as good as new” is the same as redemption. Remember that.

NARRATOR

And ST. Luke wrote it all down.

ST. LUKE

Redemption! What a great story this is going to be!

NARRATOR

They all said goodbye to Jesus and St. Luke. Jesus had many miracles to do in his life. And, of course, St. Luke had a book to write.

ST. LUKE (exiting)

What a terrific book this is going to be!

MOTHER (offstage)

Jerry! Jerry, did you find your toys?

Toys start shuddering in fear.

Mother enters.

MOTHER

Jerry, you found your toys. And they look as good as new. What happened?

JERRY

They've been redeemed.

MOTHER

They certainly have. They look as good as new. Even better. How did this happen?

Jerry looks at the TOYS. They all shrug.

JERRY

Well, it's a little hard to explain. But I have a book that tells all about it. Here.

Mother takes the book, reads.

MOTHER

“The Gospel according to Luke.” Why, it's even signed.

JERRY

He signed it himself.

MOTHER

Did he really.

Jerry and the TOYS all nod.

Well, I am glad your toys are...redeemed.

NARRATOR

Jerry's Mother told him that it was nearly time for bed. She also told him she was very proud that he had cleaned his room so well. Jerry promised to get ready for bed, but he had one more question.

JERRY

We won't throw away the toys now, will we?

NARRATOR

The TOYS looked at Jerry's Mother with puppy dog faces.

MOTHER

No, Jerry. We were never going to throw away your toys. They're your toys and you love them. But I am glad they are fixed.

NARRATOR

Mom, they're redeemed.

MOTHER

Of course they are. Five minutes to bed.

She exits.

JERRY

Five minutes. Party time, guys.

TOYS

Yay!

Music cue. The TOYS dance and give Jerry high fives.

Bows.

C U R T A I N

