

Bible Byte 5

God set him free from death and raised him to life. Death could not hold him in its power.

Acts 2:24

The Art School

Enter 3 or 4 art students (they should all be dressed in flamboyant arty clothes). They begin to set up their easels and palettes. The three easels are set facing the audience, so that the paintings are not visible. Written on the reverse side of the paintings are the three sections of the Bible Byte.

On the other side of the first painting is a picture of Elvis, the second painting is a pale pastel version of a Da Vinci self portrait. The third painting is an abstract 'cave' surrounded by some bright colours.

Acts 2:24

But God set him
free from death

and raised him
to life.

Death could not
hold him in its
power.

These words face the audience. The Art teacher enters with a grand flourish. All of the teacher's moves, gestures and statements are delivered with artistic excess.

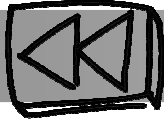
Teacher: *(clapping hands together)* Come, come, my students. Today we are continuing our work on tragic portraits of famous people. Now, remember the techniques we have been studying – I want the brushes set free *(doing a flourish with the brush)* – repeat after me – set free *(with flourish)* come on now, everyone – set free *(encourage audience participation)*.

And secondly I want all of the colours lifted, boosted, raised – *(hands gesture upwards into the air)* raised *(repeat gesture each time)* the colours all – raised - to life.

Wonderful action there, just wonderful. And thirdly remember from week three -- when a man views your painting, it must grip him, grasp him, capture him, hold him in its power *(hold arms tightly on opposite shoulders)*. With me now...it must hold *(hold arms tightly on opposite shoulders)* him in its power. Magnifique!!! Stupéfiant!!! *(Becomes rather lost in the moment, then regains presence.)*

Arthur, who are you working on?

Arthur: I'm painting Elvis.



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Teacher: *(clearly appalled)* For goodness sake, you've got the hippy hippy shake. Look, the brush must be ... *(gesturing and beckoning everyone to join in)* set free! Set free!

(Arthur gives it a try...rather awkwardly)

Teacher: Oh well, a little low-brow, but not to worry. Arturo?

Arturo: I am imitating the self portraits of Da Vinci.

Teacher: Let me see – hmm, yes, hmm, ah-huh, hmmm, right.....hmmm. Arturo, I'm afraid it's the colours. Class – what have we said about the colours? The colours must be

All: *(doing the arm gestures)* Raised to life.

Teacher: Did you get that Arturo? Again everybody!

All: *(doing the arm gestures)* Raised to life.

Teacher: Excellent! And you, Paige?

Paige: Jesus.

Art teacher: Hmm, a very challenging artistic work – you are painting the death of Jesus?

Paige: Yes, well trying to.

Teacher: I'm sure it's wonderful. Let me see. Oh I see – I see – well, Paige your brush has certainly been set free, and the colours completely raised to life. Now, Arthur, Arturo, come here, and look at Paige's painting. Does it hold you in its power? Does it? – Does it hold you in its power?

(Arturo & Arthur look with bewildered expressions.)

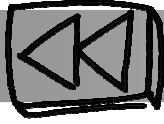
No - it doesn't hold me in its power either, and do you know why? Do you know why girls and boys, mums and dads, poppas and nannas, peas and carrots, apples and bananas, sitters and standers...

Because there's nothing there – it's a big cave of nothingness! What is this???? It's not a portrait of Jesus' death – JESUS – ISN'T –EVEN – THERE!?!?! *(Turns the third painting around, to reveal a painting of an empty cave.)*

Paige: Of course Jesus isn't there. Listen to what it says in the Bible -

Acts 2:24 God set him free from death and raised him to life. Death could not hold him in its power.

Did we all get that? *(repeat and include actions from phrases before)*



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Teacher: Are you trying to tell me that just because God set him free from death and raised him to life (and) death could not hold him in its power, you have completely left Jesus out of the picture? Just left him out!

Paige: Entirely.

Teacher: I expected more from you, Paige. Arthur here has copied a magazine Elvis, (*turns the painting over.*) Arturo has produced a pastel version of Da Vinci (*turns this painting over.*) But you – doesn't anything I say make a difference?

Paige : I think what you've been saying about *setting free*, and *raised to life* and *holding in its power* have really made a difference. I think the girls and boys and mums and dads and poppas and nannas , and everyone, has learned our Bible Byte and can say it perfectly. Come on, let's give it a go.

(repeat verse, including 'setting free', 'raised to life' and 'holding' actions)

Acts 2:24 God set him free from death and raised him to life. Death could not hold him in its power.

