

Upfront Bible 2

Jesus is a friend who never gives up

John 21:1-17, John 18:12-27

The Bible and the Box - Round 1

For this you will need a very large, sturdy whitegoods box – a washing machine or dishwasher carton would be ideal. It needs to be in place, with person B hidden in it from the start.

A: Guess what I've got in this box? *(take some answers – allowing three people of different ages to come to the front. Let them guess, then say “no- it's chocolate” – and give them a chocolate frog.)* Actually I still have something in this box. It's...a Bible.

Because we're about to do something called 'The Bible and the Box'.

The way Bible and the Box works is...*(at this point the box starts to 'rumble and rattle' and Person A stops to investigate. Person B jumps up out of the box.)*

Hi – are you here for 'Bible and the Box'?

B: Sounds great! How do you play?

A: I'm going to read something from the Bible – and you have to act it out – but you have to use the box as something in the story – and you have include at least three people from the audience.

B: Wow! Sounds like fun. Could be hard though...can I get a friend?

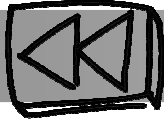
A: Sure

B: Great. *(B calls to another leader C, who comes to help)*I'm really glad you're here, cos I know you're the kind of friend who doesn't give up...and this could get a bit tricky.

C: It's going to be great.

A: OK are you ready? Ready Girls & Boys, Mums & Dads, Seagulls and Jellyfish, Vistors & Campers? Ready everyone? It's time for (drum roll) The Bible and The Box!!!

Our first challenge today comes from the book of John – the very last chapter...



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John 21:1 Jesus later appeared to his disciples along the **shore** of Lake Tiberias. ²Simon Peter, Thomas the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, and the brothers James and John, were there, together with two other disciples. ³Simon Peter said, "I'm going **fishing**!" The others said, "We will go with you." They went out in their **boat**. But they didn't catch a thing that night.

⁴Early the next morning Jesus stood on the **shore**, but the disciples did not realize who he was. ⁵Jesus shouted, "Friends, have you caught anything?"

"No!" they answered.

(Pause reading)

⁶So he told them, "Let your **net** down on the right side of your **boat**, and you will catch some **fish**."

They did, and the **net** was so full of **fish** that they could not drag it up into the **boat**.

⁷Jesus' favorite disciple told Peter, "It's the Lord!" When Simon heard that it was the Lord, he put on the clothes that he had taken off while he was working. Then he jumped into the water. ⁸The **boat** was only about a hundred yards from shore. So the other disciples stayed in the **boat** and dragged in the **net** full of **fish**.

⁹When the disciples got out of the **boat**, they saw some bread and a charcoal fire with **fish** on it. ¹⁰Jesus told his disciples, "Bring some of the **fish** you just caught." ¹¹Simon Peter got back into the **boat** and dragged the **net** to shore. In it were one hundred fifty-three large **fish**, but still the **net** did not rip.

¹²Jesus said, "Come and eat!" But none of the disciples dared ask who he was. They knew he was the Lord. ¹³Jesus took the bread in his hands and gave some of it to his disciples. He did the same with the **fish**. ¹⁴This was the third time that Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from death

While the Bible is being read, Persons B & C gather five other volunteers and put them in to the box as a boat. Add some extra props – a net, some oars, a broom handle mast.

Choose another person to stand to the side as Jesus. They are positioned with their hands around their mouth as if calling out.

Stop at this point and interact with the people in the boat. Ask them if they have any fish – to which of course they answer 'No'.

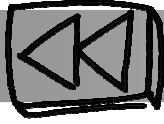
Person C: disappears behind the backdrop and Person B becomes troubled – "Oh no, "C" has gone away, and we don't have any fish...this is too hard! All we have is a box, I can't do this. I give up."

Person C: (returns with arms full of fish)

Choose one of your volunteers to be Peter. Give them a shirt to put on, help them out of the boat and to 'swim' to shore.

Others get out of boat and push it to 'shore'

Volunteers sit down.



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¹⁵ When Jesus and his disciples had finished eating, he asked, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than the others do?" Simon Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, you know I do!" "Then feed my lambs," Jesus said.

¹⁶ Jesus asked a second time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you!"

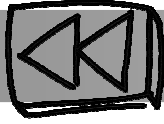
"Then take care of my sheep," Jesus told him.

¹⁷ Jesus asked a third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus had asked him three times if he loved him. So he told Jesus, "Lord, you know everything. You know I love you." Jesus replied, "Feed my sheep."

A: Fantastic! You all did a brilliant job of 'Bible and the Box'. I was a bit worried about you, B there in the middle – you looked a bit flaky when you thought that C had gone –

B: I know – I know, and I should have known better. C is the kind of friend who never quits, never gives up, never runs away... and C didn't.

(Thanks & cheers to the volunteers)



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The Bible and the Box - Round 2

A: We're back now for Bible and the Box round 2. This is the game in which our talented participants must act out the story being told, and they must include the box, strategically, cunningly, creatively, into their presentation. In addition they must also include at least three audience members.

Ladies and gentlemen, lads & lasses, possums and cockroaches, rusted-on and rushing- in. I give you the Bible (cheers) the Box (cheers) the bold (person B) and the beautiful (person C)

Our second story winds back just a little bit, a week or so before our last episode. Just so we all are clear – I want everyone to stand up and just take two steps -- this way –and sit down again. Back to Sunday morning, in the weekend that Jesus has been killed and buried.

John 20:1-10

¹On Sunday morning while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. ²She ran to Simon Peter and to Jesus' favourite disciple and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb! We don't know where they have put him."

³Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴They ran side by side, until the other disciple ran faster than Peter and got there first. ⁵He bent over and saw the strips of linen cloth lying inside the tomb, but he did not go in.

⁶When Simon Peter got there, he went into the tomb and saw the strips of cloth. ⁷He also saw the piece of cloth that had been used to cover Jesus' face. It was rolled up and in a place by itself. ⁸The disciple who got there first then went into the tomb, and when he saw it, he believed. ⁹At that time Peter and the other disciple did not know that the Scriptures said Jesus would rise to life. ¹⁰So the two of them went back to the other disciples.

B turns over the box on its side to make the tomb, adjusting the top flaps to extend the entrance to the box.

C chooses a girl from the audience, and guides her to the box.

Meanwhile B chooses 2 boys (quietly prepares them for their role of running and looking)

C coaches the girl in running to the boys and gesticulating wildly, pointing to the tomb.

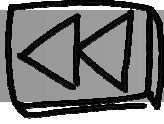
Boys start 'running' on the spot. One then gets there first, the other overtakes and enters box.

Other follows in. Both come out confused.

Walk back to their places.

A: Great job, friends. Didn't they do well? And how about the box – a round of applause for the box. Well, you just have one more round to go. And in this next one – we rewind back, just a bit further.

(We suggest that you break up the rounds with songs, or other activities)



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The Bible and the Box - Round 3

A: And we're back again for 'The Bible and The Box – Round 3'.

You know the deal – but just to keep you on your toes – we have thrown some mystery 'box' items into the Box, which you must also include in your dizzying dramatic demonstration of the Bible.

Shall we take a look at the items?

The items are:

- Boxing glove
- Box of matches (*make sure they are not live – either use an empty box, or have just a few matches in the box that have been soaked in water.*)
- Letter box

You can be as creative as you like – but these items must be used, along with the big box, and you must also include at least three audience members. And – one last thing – this round – must be done in SLOW MOTION. Are you ready?

B & C: (*enthusiastically high fiving each other, arm pumps etc...*) Yes! Totally pumped! Bring it on!

A: SLOW MOTION!!!

B & C: (*in slow motion high fiving each other, arm pumps etc...*) Yes! Totally pumped! Bring it on!

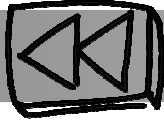
John 18:¹²The Roman officer and his men, together with the temple police, arrested Jesus and tied him up. ¹³They took him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴This was the same Caiaphas who had told the Jewish leaders, "It is better if one person dies for the people." ¹⁵Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. That disciple knew the high priest, and he followed Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest's house. ¹⁶Peter stayed outside near the gate. But the other disciple came back out and spoke to the girl at the gate. She let Peter go in, ¹⁷but asked him, "Aren't you one of that man's followers?"
"No, I am not!" Peter answered.
¹⁸It was cold, and the servants and temple police had made a charcoal fire. They were warming themselves around it, when Peter went over and stood near the fire to warm himself.

B: Turns over the box. This is going to be a 'judgement seat' for Annas and Caiaphas, who B then chooses, and seats on the box.

A (pre- set) leader stands as Jesus in front of Annas.

Meanwhile C: chooses about six people to be soldiers – encourages them to 'macho' it up and march in formation around the space.

Next B: chooses about five people from the crowd and sets them around an 'imaginary' fire and gives one of them the box of matches, and instructions to pretend to light a fire, and to warm themselves.



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- A: *(stops reading, looks tired, wipes brow, leans against something)* This is a tough story. Bad things are happening to Jesus, His friends aren't doing anything...and there are lots of hard names to pronounce, and people everywhere. This one is kind of outside the box!
- B: I'm a bit worried. Person A is about to give up...this is complicated.
- C: No, no way – I know Person A, there's no way she's giving up. You watch, she's a great friend, and even though this is a tough round – she's the kind of friend who never gives up.
- B: You reckon she never gives up?
- C: Sure of it.
- A: Ok, how are we going? The slow motion is looking great guys – you've already used the box, the matches, lots of people. Ready to keep going?
- B: Yes!
- C: (to B) Told you! The kind of friend who never gives up.

(Person A is re-energised and resumes reading)

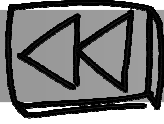
¹⁹The high priest questioned Jesus about his followers and his teaching. ²⁰But Jesus told him, "I have spoken freely in front of everyone. And I have always taught in our meeting places and in the temple, where all of our people come together. I have not said anything in secret. ²¹Why are you questioning me? Why don't you ask the people who heard me? They know what I have said." ²²As soon as Jesus said this, one of the temple police hit him and said, "That's no way to talk to the high priest!" ²³Jesus answered, "If I have done something wrong, say so. But if not, why did you hit me?" ²⁴Jesus was still tied up, and Annas sent him to Caiaphas the high priest. ²⁵While Simon Peter was standing there warming himself, someone asked him, "Aren't you one of Jesus' followers?" Again Peter denied it and said, "No, I am not!" ²⁶One of the high priest's servants was there. He was a relative of the servant whose ear Peter had cut off, and he asked, "Didn't I see you in the garden with that man?" ²⁷Once more Peter denied it, and right then a rooster crowed.

While the Bible is being read...

C gives one of the soldiers the boxing glove and explains that they will mime punching Jesus (Leader) – reminding them to do it in slow motion for maximum effect.

B coaches the people around the fire to all whisper and point at 'Peter', and for Peter to mime shaking his head. Remind them to do it in exaggerated slow motion.

Choose one person to mime flapping wings and crowing like a rooster (slow motion).



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- A: A round of applause for everyone – that went just the way it was meant to! Take a bow and return to your places.
- B: *(Begins to walk away)* I failed, oh no, I blew it.
- C: *(following after)* What do you mean?
- B: The letter box – we didn't use the letter box.
- C: Oh yeah , we didn't.
- B: I can't face A. I thought I was going to own it – I was all "Bring it on" *(mimes the slow motion enthusiasm from the start)*. But I cracked under pressure. That's it. I'm done.
- C: Yeah me too, let's go fishing. (B & C exit)
- A: *(To the audience)* Hey guys you did a great job, but I'm going to have to go sort it out with those two (B&C). It's like they don't remember the first two parts of the story. –

Remember, Peter – he'd denied knowing Jesus, and even when he saw the empty tomb, he didn't believe Jesus was alive. But Jesus is the kind of friend who never gives up. He found Peter, helped him fish, gave him breakfast, and sorted things out. It's the kind of friend Jesus is. And I'm going to go find those guys and remind them. *(exits)*

