

# THE AMAZING GRACE RACE

*by Michelle Lynn Selters*



CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

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***The***  
***Amazing Grace Race***

*"Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."*

***by Michelle Lynn Senters***

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

### With Costume Suggestions

**JESUS** — Gentle, forgiving, patient, loving, and strong. He wears a white robe with a gold rope belt.

**NEWSCASTER** — High energy, big voice, loves to get the “scoop.” He wears a blazer or jacket (bright colors, plaid), black glasses, tie, and hat.

**RICH MAN** — Independent, self-important, powerful, selfish, entitled, attitude of superiority, will deny Jesus before ultimately following him. He wears a blazer or jacket (dark color), red tie, red handkerchief in pocket. On race day, he keeps his blazer but wears shorts instead of pants and pins on a competitor number.

**BEAUTIFUL WOMAN** — Self-centered, obsessed with image, vain, and overuses accessories. She wears a beautiful dress, boa, fancy hat or tiara, and a “Miss Beautiful” banner. On race day, she wears all her accessories, but pins on a competitor number and wears shorts instead of her dress.

**CHURCH WOMAN** — Sweet, self-righteous, believes in acts versus grace. She wears a modest dress, sweater, and a Sunday hat. On race day she keeps her sweater and Sunday hat, but she wears shorts and a competitor number instead of her dress.

**MUSCLE MAN** — Tough, believes he can do everything by his own strength, incapable of asking for help. He wears a T-shirt and shorts, with possible fake muscles. On race day, he adds a competitor number.

**CHILD** — Boy or girl who is unassuming, insecure, wants to do the right thing, and loves and trusts Jesus. He or she wears casual summer clothes. On race day, he or she adds a competitor number.

**ANGELS** — (Two, non-speaking roles) Helpful, peaceful, rejoice when sinners repent. They wear white gowns, halos, and wings.

## PRODUCTION NOTES

Silly and poignant, *The Amazing Grace Race* is designed to bring children to a deeper understanding of the grace, forgiveness, and love of Jesus. *The Amazing Grace Race* is a one-act play broken down into six short scenes. The Newscaster interviews runners for the upcoming Amazing Grace Race: Rich Man, Beautiful Woman, Muscle Man, Church Lady, and Child. All of the contestants believe they will win based on their unique qualities, strengths, or possessions. One contestant, the Child, is unassuming, loves Jesus deeply, and sets an example for others to follow. On race day, each runner discovers his or her inability to cross the “Great Divide” on his or her own. Each must be willing to lay down his treasure, ask forgiveness, and choose to follow Jesus.

## SCENE DESCRIPTIONS

### *Scene 1 – Race Announcement*

The Newscaster interviews Jesus. Jesus announces the “Amazing Grace Race” and explains the details of the race.

### *Scene 2 – Interviews with Muscle Man and Beautiful Woman*

Muscle Man shows his strength. Beautiful Woman shows her beauty and style. Jesus explains that strength and beauty will not help them win the race. They will need to follow him.

### *Scene 3 – Interviews with Rich Man and Church Woman*

Rich Man discusses his money and power. Church Woman gloats about her good works. Jesus explains that money, power, and good works will not help to win the race. All fall short of the Glory of God. They will need to follow him.

### *Scene 4 – Interview with Child*

Newscaster interviews Child. Child wants to run and see Jesus, but Newscaster scoffs at Child. Jesus returns and assures Child she can run the race and promises to help when Child reaches the Great Divide. Newscaster is stunned that Jesus allowed a Child to race.

### *Scene 5 – The Amazing Grace Race*

Newscaster announces the beginning of the race. Jesus reminds everyone that he can help at the Great Divide. Race begins. At the Great Divide, each tries to cross but fails. Jesus enters and explains the Great Divide as sin and his death on the cross. Jesus lays the cross down and each racer makes the decision to follow Jesus across the Great Divide. They each

confess, laying down their “sins” and follow Jesus across. Angels rejoice as each runner crosses. Rich Man chooses not to follow.

*Scene 6 – Final Newscast*

Newscaster reports on race. Jesus helps Rich Man across the Great Divide. Newscaster ends broadcast, but realizes he wants to join the race. Jesus helps Newscaster across Great Divide as the Angels rejoice.

**PROPS**

Microphone, fake money, large hand mirror, Bible, plate of cookies, hand weights, tool belt, tools, nails, wood, whistle, large wooden cross.

**SET**

The set may be minimal. Make and hang a sign that reads “Amazing Grace Race.” On race day, the “Great Divide” is created by laying a long, black cloth at Center Stage, dividing Stage Right from Stage Left.

**MUSIC**

“Flight of the Bumblebee” by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov or another fast piece of music for the race scene.

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Scene 1

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(NEWSCASTER interviews JESUS. A sign, "The Amazing Grace Race," hangs in the background.)

**NEWSCASTER:** (*Speaking into microphone*) **Good afternoon. This is \_\_\_\_\_, (*Insert NEWSCASTER's name*) reporting for I Witness News. Today I am in beautiful, sunny \_\_\_\_\_ (*Insert your location*) with Jesus Christ, who is going to tell us about the Amazing Grace Race.**

**JESUS:** Hello, \_\_\_\_\_. (*Insert NEWSCASTER's name*). **How are you?** (*Puts hand on NEWSCASTER's shoulder.*)

**NEWSCASTER:** Uh, fine.

**JESUS:** How is your family?

**NEWSCASTER:** (*Uncomfortable*) **You know my wife and children?**

**JESUS:** (*Warmly*) **I know everyone, \_\_\_\_\_, (*Insert NEWSCASTER's full name*) including you.**

**NEWSCASTER:** (*Nervous, changing topic*) **Uh, let's talk about the race, Jesus. From what I understand, you have invited everyone to participate in this race. Is that true?**

**JESUS:** Yes. I want everyone in the world to join this race. The race is completely free. I have personally paid all admission costs.

**NEWSCASTER:** Completely free? That sounds like a good deal. I understand the race course is difficult. What can you tell us?

**JESUS:** Yes, it is a difficult race. Those contestants will not have it easy. Each one must navigate across the Great Divide.

**NEWSCASTER:** Tell us more about this Great Divide.

**JESUS:** The Great Divide is dark, dangerous, and frightening. No one can pass the Great Divide without my help. If they are willing to follow me, I will keep them safe. I will always stay with my runners.

**NEWSCASTER:** So, where is the finish line?

**JESUS:** We are racing on the long road of life. Eventually I will lead everyone to my Father's home in heaven,



1           **Welcome, Muscle Man and Beautiful Woman.**

2   **MUSCLE MAN: Thanks.** (*Admiring self*) **My muscles are happy**  
3           **to be here.**

4   **BEAUTIFUL WOMAN: Thank you.** (*Looking into mirror and*  
5           *fluffing hair*)

6   **NEWSCASTER: Muscle Man, can you tell us how you plan to**  
7           **win the race tomorrow?**

8   **MUSCLE MAN: Well, look at me! I have muscles everywhere!**  
9           (*Falls to the ground and grunts. Does a few push-ups, picks up*  
10           *weights, and stands.*) **I can do anything with these**  
11           **muscles.** (*Lifts weights and grunts again.*) **I am strong and**  
12           **handsome.**

13 **JESUS: The race will be difficult. You cannot win this race**  
14           **by strength.** (*Putting hand on his shoulder*) **You will need**  
15           **my help and strength, \_\_\_\_\_.** (*Insert MUSCLE MAN's*  
16           *name*).

17 **MUSCLE MAN: Your strength? I am stronger than you! I don't**  
18           **need anyone's help. I am strong enough to do this by**  
19           **myself.** (*Looking at BEAUTIFUL WOMAN and posing*) **Did I**  
20           **mention I'm handsome too?** (*BEAUTIFUL WOMAN*  
21           *ignores him.*)

22 **NEWSCASTER: Beautiful Woman, how do you plan to run**  
23           **this race?**

24 **BEAUTIFUL WOMAN: (Looking into mirror) Well, look at me! I**  
25           **am beeeeuuuutiful!**

26 **NEWSCASTER and MUSCLE MAN: (Smiling, together) Yes, you**  
27           **are!**

28 **JESUS: You are beautiful, \_\_\_\_\_,** (*Insert BEAUTIFUL*  
29           *WOMAN's name*) **but beauty will not win the race. You**  
30           **will need my help.**

31 **BEAUTIFUL WOMAN: Don't be silly. All I have to do is bat**  
32           **my eyes and smile, and everyone will just let me win.**  
33           **They want beautiful people in heaven. And I'm the**  
34           **prettiest!** (*Giggles and coos.*)

35 **JESUS: Everyone is beautiful in my eyes.**

36 **BEAUTIFUL WOMAN: (Shocked) Everyone? But I am the**  
37           **prettiest, right?** (*Smiles and bats eyes.*)

38 **MUSCLE MAN: And I'm the strongest, right?** (*MUSCLE MAN*



1 me. I am so excited to be here! I have worked so, so, so  
 2 hard to get here! I can't wait to see Jesus and tell him  
 3 about everything I've done. (*Looking around*) Where is he,  
 4 anyway? (*Elbows RICH MAN.*) He *is* famous, you know.  
 5 (*JESUS arrives. CHURCH LADY jumps up and down and*  
 6 *giggles.*)

7 **NEWSCASTER:** Rich Man, how do you plan to run this race  
 8 and cross the Great Divide?

9 **RICH MAN:** I am the richest and most powerful man in the  
 10 world. Some would say I am the smartest as well. I tell  
 11 people to jump, and they jump. (*Points to CHURCH*  
 12 *LADY.*) Jump! (*CHURCH LADY jumps happily.*) I will  
 13 simply walk over the Great Divide. If I have to, I will  
 14 pay a lot of money to win this race. (*Shows money.*)

15 **CHURCH LADY:** (*Looking at money*) Oooo!

16 **JESUS:** I don't want your money, \_\_\_\_\_. (*Insert RICH MAN's*  
 17 *name.*) All the money in the world will not help you win  
 18 this race. I have paid the admission fee for you.

19 **RICH MAN:** No one pays my bills. How much is the admission  
 20 fee for the race? A hundred dollars? A thousand? A  
 21 million dollars?

22 **JESUS:** I paid your bill. You have a free admission. You need  
 23 to leave your money and follow me.

24 **RICH MAN:** (*Irritated and impatient*) *No one* pays my bills. *I* pay  
 25 them. I *never* put down my money. It is with me  
 26 constantly. I might need it. *And* I don't follow anyone.  
 27 They follow *me!* I'm late for a meeting ... with my money.  
 28 (*Leaves and begins counting his money.*)

29 **NEWSCASTER:** Church Lady, how to you expect to win this  
 30 race?

31 **CHURCH LADY:** Oooo, I am so excited! I've been soooo good.  
 32 I've done soooo much for others. (*Counting on her fingers*)  
 33 On Sundays, I go to church. On Mondays, I help the old  
 34 ladies cross the street. On Tuesdays, I make casseroles  
 35 for my neighbors. On Wednesdays, I sew quilts for  
 36 people in Antarctica. On Thursdays, I have tea with  
 37 other church ladies. On Fridays, I go to choir practice.  
 38 On Saturdays, I serve food at the soup kitchen. And I

1        *always* carry my Bible. Oh, *and* I'm going to bring  
 2        homemade cookies for everyone on race day! Is that  
 3        enough? Are you proud of me, Jesus? Am I going to win?

4        JESUS: You are very busy, \_\_\_\_\_, (*Insert CHURCH LADY's*  
 5        *name*) and you do many wonderful things. (*CHURCH*  
 6        *LADY squeals with joy.*) However, being a good person  
 7        and working hard is not enough to cross the Great  
 8        Divide.

9        CHURCH LADY: I can work harder. I can do more! Maybe I  
 10       can build a bridge across the Great Divide so everyone  
 11       can cross. Then everyone will see how good I am.

12       JESUS: No. I have done all the work to help you win this  
 13       race. You must follow me.

14       CHURCH LADY: That doesn't make sense. I am a good  
 15       person! I carry my Bible everywhere!

16       JESUS: Do you read your Bible?

17       CHURCH LADY: Well ... no. (*Emphatically*) I'm soooo busy  
 18       doing good things that I don't have *time* to read the  
 19       Bible.

20       JESUS: Read it. Then you will understand how I can help  
 21       you.

22       CHURCH LADY: Maybe it will tell me how to build a bridge.  
 23       (*CHURCH LADY begins to read the Bible as she leaves.*)

24       NEWSCASTER: Yes, it is going to be an exciting race  
 25       tomorrow! There will be muscles and beauty and  
 26       money, and the Church Lady promised free cookies for  
 27       everyone! Well, that is all for now, ladies and  
 28       gentlemen. Tune in later for —

29       JESUS: (*Interrupting*) Excuse me, \_\_\_\_\_, (*Insert*  
 30       *NEWSCASTER's name*) will you be running tomorrow?

31       NEWSCASTER: (*Uncomfortable and embarrassed*) I told you  
 32       over and over, I am a reporter. I report on other  
 33       people's stories. This is not my story. (*Head down.*) I don't  
 34       have a story.

35       JESUS: You *do* have a story. This race is part of it.

36       NEWSCASTER: (*Turning back to audience with a forced smile*)  
 37       Stay tuned for my interview with the Child. And be sure  
 38       to catch our broadcast of the Amazing Grace Race later



- 1 dangerous. How do you expect to cross the Great  
2 Divide?
- 3 CHILD: I don't know. Maybe Jesus will help me.
- 4 RICH MAN: You should go home.
- 5 JESUS: Stop! Let the child come to me.
- 6 CHILD: (*Runs to JESUS and hugs him.*) Jesus! I want to run in  
7 the race, but they said that I was too little. Please can I  
8 come? I just want to be with you! I promise I will follow  
9 you and I won't get lost! Please?
- 10 JESUS: Of course you may run the race, my child. I will run  
11 with you and protect you. I will never leave you,  
12 \_\_\_\_\_. (*Insert CHILD's name. Turning to the*  
13 *CONTESTANTS and NEWSCASTER*) I tell you the truth:  
14 Unless you run the race like a child, you will never  
15 finish. Your beauty and strength will not help you. Your  
16 money and good works will not help you. You must  
17 follow me and learn from me. You must trust me as  
18 much as this child trusts me. (*RICH MAN, CHURCH*  
19 *LADY, BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, and MUSCLE MAN roll their*  
20 *eyes.*)
- 21 CHILD: (*Jumping up and down*) I trust you! I trust you!
- 22 NEWSCASTER: Well, ladies and gentlemen, this ends our  
23 broadcast.
- 24 JESUS: One more thing, \_\_\_\_\_. (*Insert NEWSCASTER's name.*)  
25 Will you run with me? I would really like you to join us.
- 26 NEWSCASTER: I am a reporter, *not* a runner! How many  
27 times do I have to tell you?
- 28 JESUS: If you change your mind, I will come back for you.  
29 Call my name, and I will help you.
- 30 NEWSCASTER: And this ends —
- 31 JESUS: (*Interrupting again*) Oh, and one more thing.
- 32 ALL: (*Together*) We know! We know! You are the way and the  
33 truth and the life. Anyone who follows you will surely  
34 win the race.
- 35 MUSCLE MAN, RICH MAN, BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, and  
36 CHURCH WOMAN: (*Scoffing*) Yeah, yeah.
- 37 CHILD: (*Grabbing the hand of JESUS*) I believe you! I will  
38 follow you, Jesus!

1 **NEWSCASTER:** *(Turning back to broadcast and smiling)* **And this**  
 2 **ends our broadcast. Please join me later for the**  
 3 **Amazing Grace Race. Until then, this is \_\_\_\_\_** *(Insert*  
 4 *NEWSCASTER's name)* **reporting for I Witness News.**

6 **Scene 5**

8 *(CONTESTANTS are stretching and getting ready for the*  
 9 *Amazing Grace Race. They are wearing shorts, but still retain*  
 10 *parts of their costumes that display their personalities, e.g.,*  
 11 *RICH MAN wears shorts with a suit jacket and tie. At Center*  
 12 *Stage, a black cloth lays across the ground separating Stage*  
 13 *Right from Stage Left, symbolizing the Great Divide.)*

14 **NEWSCASTER:** *(Speaking into microphone)* **Good day, ladies**  
 15 **and gentlemen! This is \_\_\_\_\_,** *(Insert NEWSCASTER's*  
 16 *name)* **reporting again for I Witness News. It is time for**  
 17 **the Amazing Grace Race! Jesus, do you have any last**  
 18 **words of advice for our contestants?**

19 **JESUS:** **I just want to tell the contestants how much I love**  
 20 **them.**

21 **NEWSCASTER:** **You love the contestants?**

22 **JESUS:** **Of course I do! I love them more than they could ever**  
 23 **know. I love them so much that I will personally help**  
 24 **each one of them cross the Great Divide.**

25 **NEWSCASTER:** **It looks as though the Amazing Grace Race**  
 26 **is about to begin. Good luck to all the contestants!**  
 27 *(CONTESTANTS line up for race at Stage Left.)*

28 **JESUS:** **On your mark, get set, follow me!** *(Well-choreographed*  
 29 *scene to "Flight of the Bumblebee" or another fast-paced piece of*  
 30 *music may play in the background. Race begins. Only the*  
 31 *CHILD follows JESUS. The rest of the CONTESTANTS*  
 32 *appear confused and lost. BEAUTIFUL WOMAN runs in*  
 33 *circles because she continues to look in the mirror. MUSCLE*  
 34 *MAN shows off his muscles, chases the BEAUTIFUL WOMAN,*  
 35 *and bullies the RICH MAN. RICH MAN pays him off and*  
 36 *offers money to anyone who gets in his way. CHURCH*  
 37 *WOMAN is struggling as she carries wood, a Bible, and a tool*  
 38 *belt, and offers cookies to everyone. When the CONTESTANTS*

1        *reach the Great Divide, they yell out, almost falling in. Each*  
 2        *tries to cross, but fails. MUSCLE MAN tries jumping forcefully,*  
 3        *but only wears himself out. RICH MAN tries to pay JESUS,*  
 4        *but JESUS refuses. CHURCH LADY starts building a bridge.*  
 5        *CHILD waits for instructions from JESUS and follows his*  
 6        *every move. JESUS blows whistle. Music stops. Everyone*  
 7        *freezes. JESUS and NEWSCASTER continue interview.)*

8        **NEWSCASTER:** It seems everyone is having a problem with  
 9        the Great Divide just as you predicted, Jesus.

10       **JESUS:** Yes. *(Talking to NEWSCASTER and audience.)* The  
 11       Great Divide is sin, \_\_\_\_\_. *(Insert NEWSCASTER's name).*  
 12       The wrong choices people make separate them from  
 13       God. But I have come to take away their sin and help  
 14       them to cross the Great Divide. Do you see the Church  
 15       Lady building a bridge? Her bridge is not strong  
 16       enough. I have built a bridge that everyone can cross.  
 17       Would you like to see it?

18       **NEWSCASTER:** Of course.

19       **JESUS:** *(Leaves and returns with a large cross.)* Everyone sins,  
 20       and sin must be punished. I loved everyone so much  
 21       that I didn't want them to be punished for their sins. I  
 22       took the punishment instead. Long ago, I was nailed to  
 23       this cross and died for your sins and the sins of the  
 24       world. When I say that I am the way, the truth, and the  
 25       life, I am talking about my sacrifice on the cross and the  
 26       forgiveness of your sins.

27       **NEWSCASTER:** I understand. So, how will the contestants  
 28       use the cross to get across the Great Divide?

29       **JESUS.** The cross will serve as a bridge. They simply have to  
 30       ask forgiveness and follow me. *(JESUS blows the whistle*  
 31       *and the CONTESTANTS continue their efforts to cross on their*  
 32       *own. The CHILD gives her full attention to JESUS.)*

33       **JESUS:** *(Holding the cross)* I am the way, the truth, and the life!  
 34       Who will follow me across the Great Divide?

35       **CHILD:** I will follow you, Jesus, because I want to be with  
 36       you forever! *(JESUS lays the cross across the Great Divide.*  
 37       *He takes the CHILD by the hand and helps her walk across the*  
 38       *cross bridge while the CONTESTANTS watch quietly. As soon*

- 1           *as the CHILD crosses, the ANGELS appear and rejoice.)*
- 2   **JESUS:** *(Goes to BEAUTIFUL WOMAN who is lost, crying, and*  
3           *staring at herself in the mirror.)* **Are you ready to follow me,**  
4           **\_\_\_\_\_?** *(Insert BEAUTIFUL WOMAN's name.)*
- 5   **BEAUTIFUL WOMAN:** *(Crying)* **When I looked in the mirror, I**  
6           **saw my sin and I wasn't beautiful anymore. Will you**  
7           **forgive me?**
- 8   **JESUS:** *(Taking the mirror and putting it on the ground)* **Your sins**  
9           **are forgiven. Follow me.** *(BEAUTIFUL WOMAN removes*  
10           *her tiara, hat, and other accessories and reveals her true*  
11           *beauty. JESUS smiles and helps her across. The ANGELS*  
12           *rejoice.)*
- 13   **JESUS:** *(Goes to RICH MAN who is by himself, counting his money.*  
14           *He has stopped racing.)* \_\_\_\_\_, *(Insert RICH MAN's name)*  
15           **are you ready to follow me?**
- 16   **RICH MAN:** **What must I do to cross the Great Divide?**
- 17   **JESUS:** **You must lay down your money and follow me.**
- 18   **RICH MAN:** *(Turns away from JESUS, upset.)* **I can't. My money**  
19           **is too important to me.** *(When no one is looking, the RICH*  
20           *MAN picks up the "treasures" others leave when they cross, i.e.,*  
21           *mirror, weights, hammer, wood, plate of cookies, etc. He*  
22           *becomes more selfish, unhappy, and weighed down as he*  
23           *collects more things.)*
- 24   **JESUS:** *(Goes to MUSCLE MAN who is bending over, out of breath.)*  
25           **Are you ready to follow me?**
- 26   **MUSCLE MAN:** **I tried and tried on my own, but I guess I'm**  
27           **just not strong enough.** *(Breathing heavily)* **Can you ...**  
28           **help me?** *(JESUS smiles as he helps MUSCLE MAN up.*  
29           *MUSCLE MAN puts down his weights and together they cross*  
30           *the bridge. The ANGELS rejoice.)*
- 31   **JESUS:** *(Goes to CHURCH LADY, who is reading the Bible and*  
32           *building a bridge.)* \_\_\_\_\_, *(Insert CHURCH LADY's name)*  
33           **are you ready to follow me?**
- 34   **CHURCH LADY:** **I've been reading the Bible to find**  
35           **instructions on how to build a bridge, but I can't find**  
36           **any.**
- 37   **JESUS:** **Turn to John 14:6.**
- 38   **CHURCH LADY:** *(Turns to John 14:6 in her Bible.)* **Let's see. It**



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*by Michelle Lynn Senters.*

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