

PROVE IT!

by Christy Long



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CAST OF CHARACTERS

PAT SWAYBACK: Enthusiastic game show host. Major speaking part.

VANITY WHITE: Flashy, beautiful assistant to Pat. Slightly conceited.
Minor speaking part.

ANNA: Very old temple servant. Humbly dedicated to the service of the Lord. Medium speaking part. Optional music solo.

JOHN: Disciple of Jesus. Very excited about his friends seeing him on TV. Medium speaking part. Optional musical solo.

MARY MAGDALENE: Follower of Jesus. Full of love for God because of all he has done for her. Medium speaking part. Optional musical solo.

CEDRIC: Roman soldier. Conscious of having an unpopular job. Medium speaking part. Optional musical solo.

THOMAS: The doubting disciple of Jesus. Has doubts and apprehensions every step of the way. Major speaking part. Optional musical solo.

RABBI: Pharisee of Jesus' time. Pious priest. Stubborn. Major speaking part.

AUDIENCE: Game show audience. Choir can double as audience.

SIGN FLASHER: Optional person who holds up appropriate audience response signs.

NARRATOR: May be a member of the Choir. Short Scripture reading in "Were You There?"

PRODUCTION NOTES

Prove It! can be a great play to involve your audience. Audience prompt cards such as “Applause” and “Boo” can be flashed at the audience at the appropriate times, and your audience can actually become the studio audience and be a part of the play. The Choir can also be used as the studio audience, apart from, or in addition to, your viewing audience.

SET: The stage set-up is one of the most important elements of this play. There is only one scene, which is a set for a television game show. The set is centered on a backdrop of the “Prove It Point” and, below that, the “Proof Facts.” The Prove It Point and each of the five Proof Facts should be covered in some manner when the play begins. Vanity reveals each item at the appropriate time.

Prove It Point: Jesus Christ is the long-awaited Savior come to earth.

Proof Facts:

1. The promised Savior will descend from the house and line of David.
2. The Savior will enter Jerusalem in a triumphant display on a donkey.
3. The Savior will suffer and die at the hands of men.
4. Jesus forgave Cedric completely.
5. Jesus rose from the dead!

The lettering should be large enough so as to be visible to your audience — either hand-lettered or computer generated — and affixed to posterboard or cardboard. The Point and Facts may be concealed in a number of ways. You may turn them upside-down, leaving the side without the lettering facing out. Vanity could then simply flip them over and restick them. Or you could cover them up with another piece of cardboard, which Vanity could pull off to reveal the words. Another option is to use a covering which slides over and then off. Or you may put the Point and Facts on rotating cubes, like the letters used on a popular game show.

Five seats for the contestants should be set up on one side of the set, angling out toward the audience so that the contestants can be seen by the audience and still see each other. One seat should be placed on the other side of the set for the Rabbi. There is room in the middle for Pat and Vanity. Tables may be decorated and used in front of the contestants if

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you desire. All elements of the scenery should be decorated to be as flashy as possible. Lots of Christmas lights and other neon or blinking lights work well. The Choir is positioned wherever is typical of your church: in the choir loft, on risers, etc.

LIGHTING: Lighting isn't necessary for this play. Because of the use of lights in the set itself, spotlights aren't needed.

PROPS: The only props needed are audience prompt signs: "Applause," "Boo!" and "Oh."

COSTUMES: Pat Swayback should wear a dress suit with a tie. Vanity White should wear a glamorous dress, possibly with sequins. She should have her hair done in a "big" hairdo and she should wear lots of makeup. Anna should be made up with gray hair and wrinkles and should wear a simple tunic and sandals and a headpiece. John, Mary Magdalene, and Thomas should wear a tunic and sandals, and Mary should wear a headpiece. Cedric should wear a soldier's uniform of a tunic with a breastplate over the top and a helmet along with a sword in a sheath at his side. These items can be made out of cardboard or you may be able to find plastic versions of them. Rabbi should wear a richly colored robe with sandals and a fancy hat or headpiece.

APPLAUSE: The applause may be created in several ways: there can be a cast that plays the audience for the game show, the Choir can do the applause, an applause track may be used, or the actual audience may participate, prompted by the signs.

SONGS
(In order of appearance)

- 1. God Sent His Prophets Here to Tell**
- 2. Family Tree**
- 3. Hosanna**
- 4. Were You There?**
- 5. Spotless Lamb**
- 6. He Is Alive!**

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1 *(CHOIR is On-stage and ready to sing.)*

2

3 **SONG: “God Sent His Prophets Here to Tell”**

4 **CHOIR: *(Singing)***

5 **God sent his prophets here to tell**

6 **The people whom he loved so well.**

7 **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

8 **To them a Savior would be sent;**

9 **And of their sins they should repent.**

10 **Alleluia! *(5x)***

11

12 **Through Abram, Isaac and the rest**

13 **God said all nations would be blessed.**

14 **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

15 **Isaiah came and Moses too,**

16 **And with Hosea sang, “Allu!”**

17 **Alleluia! *(5x)***

18

19 **The long, long years of waiting till**

20 **The time the promise he’d fulfill.**

21 **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

22 **And we all know that it was done**

23 **When it was time God sent his Son.**

24 **Alleluia! *(8x)***

25

26 *(Scene opens to the set of a television game show. Music and*
 27 *applause are heard as PAT runs onto the stage with typical game*
 28 *show host enthusiasm and takes his place at Center stage.)*

29 **PAT: Welcome to the hottest new game show around, *Prove It!***

30 **where contestants match wits with the experts to try and**

31 **win a fabulous prize! I’m your host, Pat Swayback, and**

32 **this is my lovely assistant, Vanity White. *(Applause as***

33 ***VANITY enters with a showy stroll and does a model’s turn when***

34 ***she reaches the center. She takes her place by the Prove It Point***

35 ***and Proof Facts, but stands off to one side so the words may be***

1 *seen when she uncovers them.)* You are looking particularly
2 ravishing tonight, Vanity.

3 **VANITY:** *(False modesty)* Well, thank you, Pat. And you are very
4 observant tonight.

5 **PAT:** *(Unsure of her compliment)* Thank you, Vanity. Now let's
6 meet tonight's contestants. First off, we have with us
7 Anna, the temple servant. Come on in, Anna. *(Applause as*
8 *ANNA enters and sits in the first of the five seats.)* Hello, Anna.

9 **ANNA:** Hi, Pat.

10 **PAT:** Tell us a little about yourself.

11 **ANNA:** There's not much to tell, really. I have been in the
12 service of the Lord for over eighty years in the temple in
13 Jerusalem. I have no husband or children.

14 **PAT:** Very interesting. Are you ready to play our game?

15 **ANNA:** Yes I am, Pat.

16 **PAT:** Good. Our next contestant is John. Come on in, John.
17 *(Applause as JOHN enters and sits in the seat next to ANNA.)*
18 How are you, John?

19 **JOHN:** I'm great, Pat.

20 **PAT:** Tell us something about yourself.

21 **JOHN:** Well, Pat, I was a fisherman all of my life until the day
22 Jesus came along and I decided to follow him. I've been
23 his disciple ever since.

24 **PAT:** You don't say.

25 **JOHN:** I'd like to say hi to some people.

26 **PAT:** We really don't have time ...

27 **JOHN:** *(Interrupts.)* Hi, Mom. Hi, James. Hey, to all the guys
28 from the upper room. *(He waves and acts goofy.)*

29 **PAT:** Moving right along. Our next contestant is a pretty little
30 gal named Mary Magdalene. Come on in, Mary. *(Applause*
31 *as MARY enters and takes the seat next to JOHN.)*

32 **MARY:** Hi, Pat.

33 **PAT:** Tell us a little about Mary.

34 **MARY:** I'm from the town of Bethany, and I have had a very
35 colorful past. But the past was all put behind me when I

1 met Jesus. He delivered me and loved me, and now I
2 serve him.

3 PAT: That is so touching, Mary. Are you ready to play our
4 game?

5 MARY: I am.

6 PAT: Great. Our next guest brings some foreign flair to our
7 show tonight. Join me in welcoming Cedric the Roman
8 soldier. (*He enters and is greeted with boos. He takes the seat
9 next to MARY.*) So, Cedric, you are a Roman soldier. Must
10 not be a very popular occupation.

11 CEDRIC: (*Worried*) This isn't a popularity contest, is it?

12 PAT: No, we play a different game here, Cedric.

13 CEDRIC: (*Relieved*) Oh, good. Yes, I am a soldier, and I do serve
14 faithfully in the Roman army.

15 PAT: I am very impressed. We are glad to have you with us
16 tonight. Our final contestant to introduce tonight is
17 Thomas. Come on in, Thomas. (*Applause as THOMAS enters
18 and takes the seat next to CEDRIC and gives CEDRIC a dirty
19 look.*) How are you tonight, Tom?

20 THOMAS: OK, I guess.

21 PAT: Are you going to win big tonight?

22 THOMAS: I doubt it.

23 PAT: Well, are you ready to play?

24 THOMAS: I suppose so.

25 PAT: Then let's play *Prove It!* (*Applause*) Our Prove It Point for
26 tonight: Jesus Christ is the long-awaited Savior come to
27 earth. (*VANITY unveils the "Prove It Point."*) Now let me
28 introduce to you our very special guest for this evening,
29 a Pharisee, a man of the Law, a teacher of the Word,
30 Rabbi Jacob. (*Applause as RABBI enters and shakes Pat's
31 hand.*) Welcome, Rabbi.

32 RABBI: Thank you, Pat. It's good to be here.

33 PAT: We feel very privileged to have such a learned man as
34 yourself on our show. The contestants certainly do have
35 their work cut out for them. If you will take your seat,

1 **Rabbi.** (*RABBI sits in the seat that is opposite the rest of the*
 2 *other GUESTS.*) **The Prove It Point once again, Rabbi, is:**
 3 **Jesus Christ is the long-awaited Savior come to earth.**

4 **RABBI: Prove it.**

5 **PAT: Contestant number one, Anna.**

6 **ANNA: I have served in the temple for many years and**
 7 **dedicated my life to God’s service as you have, Rabbi. I**
 8 **have prayed all these years for the Lord to send a**
 9 **deliverer to Israel as he promised he would, and *I have***
 10 ***seen* God’s deliverer. Many years ago I was in the temple**
 11 **praying, and a young couple came there to consecrate**
 12 **their newborn child. God spoke to my heart, and I knew**
 13 **that this child was the one that I had waited so long to**
 14 **see. As I spoke with the parents, I became even more**
 15 **convinced, for they told me of their ancestry and I was**
 16 **reminded of two prophecies about the coming Messiah.**
 17 **Isaiah 11:1 says, “A shoot will come up from the stump of**
 18 **Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.” And also in**
 19 **Jeremiah 23:5 it says, “‘The days are coming,’ declares**
 20 **the Lord, ‘when I will raise up from David’s line a**
 21 **righteous Branch, a king who will reign wisely and do**
 22 **what is just and right in the land.” Because of these facts,**
 23 **I believe that this child, Jesus, is the long-awaited Savior.**

24

25 **SONG: “Family Tree”**

26 **CHOIR: (*Singing*)**

27 *(Chorus)*

28 **David, son of Jesse, Solomon, son of David.**

29 **On and on and on it goes ’til we get Jesus Christ,**

30 **Born of David’s line.**

31 **David, son of Jesse, Solomon, son of David.**

32 **On and on and on it goes ’til we get Jesus Christ,**

33 **Born of David’s line.**

34

35 **ANNA or CHOIR: (*Singing*)**

1 The root of Jesse grew into the trunk of David.
 2 The family tree, it grew and grew fourteen generations
 3 'Til there appeared a righteous Branch,
 4 A banner for all people

5

6 **CHOIR:** *(Repeat Chorus.)*

7

8 **ANNA or CHOIR:** *(Singing)*

9 Abraham was promised descendants as the heavens.
 10 By faith he waited on the Lord and saw the promise filled
 11 And from his line a Savior came,
 12 Salvation for all men.

13

14 **CHOIR:** *(Repeat Chorus.)*

15

16 **ANNA or CHOIR:** *(Singing)*

17 This tree continues growing. The family is so large.
 18 For those who will believe on him, he splices to the Branch.
 19 Remain in Jesus, he's the vine,
 20 And we will bear much fruit.

21

22 **CHOIR:** *(Repeat Chorus.)*

23 That's our family tree.

24

25 **PAT:** *(VANITY unveils the Proof Fact as PAT says this.)* Anna's
 26 proof: The promised Savior will descend from the house
 27 and line of David. Jesus is descended from the house
 28 and line of David. *(Turning to RABBI)* Did she convince
 29 you, Rabbi?

30 **RABBI:** No, Pat, she didn't. The great and mighty Savior
 31 would not have come to earth as a helpless baby.

32 **PAT:** Oh, I'm sorry, Anna. *(Audience sympathetically "ohs." PAT*
 33 *turns to the Prove It Point.)* Jesus Christ is the long-awaited
 34 Savior come to earth.

35 **RABBI:** Prove it.

1 PAT: Contestant number two, John, a disciple of Jesus.

2 JOHN: Well, besides all the healings and miracles that I saw
 3 Jesus do, there was one event that convinced me that he
 4 was the Savior. I was hanging out with Jesus and all the
 5 guys. *(He looks toward the "camera" and waves.)* Hi, guys.
 6 Anyway, we were outside of Jerusalem, planning on
 7 entering the city to celebrate Passover. As we came to the
 8 edge of town, Jesus stopped and told James and me that
 9 we were to go ahead into town and there we would find a
 10 donkey that we should bring back for him. We did as he
 11 said, and everything was just as he told us it would be. As
 12 he entered Jerusalem riding the donkey, the people
 13 hailed him as King and greeted him with cheers. The
 14 whole scene was a prophecy fulfilled, for it says in
 15 Zechariah 9:9, "Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion!
 16 Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to
 17 you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on
 18 a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

19

20 SONG: "Hosanna!"

21 JOHN or CHOIR: *(Singing)*

22 See him riding on a donkey.
 23 See him, he's the King of Glory.
 24 Curing the sick, raising the dead,
 25 Healing their souls, caring for them.
 26 See him riding on a donkey.

27

28 CHOIR: *(Singing)*

29 *(Chorus)*

30 Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna to the King!
 31 Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna to the King!

32

33 JOHN or CHOIR: *(Singing)*

34 See him entering the city.
 35 See him, make a path before him.

1 Lift up your hands, raise up your voice,
 2 Greet him with cheers, people rejoice.
 3 See him entering the city.

4
 5 **CHOIR:** *(Repeat Chorus.)*

6		
7	HALF OF CHOIR:	HALF OF CHOIR:
8	See him riding on a donkey.	Hosanna in the highest!
9	See him, he's the King of Glory.	Hosanna to the King!
10	Curing the sick, raising the dead.	Hosanna in the highest!
11	Healing their souls, caring for them.	
12	See him riding on a donkey.	Hosanna to the King!
13		
14	See him entering the city.	Hosanna in the highest!
15	See him, make a path before him.	Hosanna to the King!
16	Lift up your hands, raise up your voice,	Hosanna in the highest!
17	Greet him with cheers, people rejoice.	
18	See him entering the city.	Hosanna to the King!

19
 20 **CHOIR:** *(Repeat Chorus.)*

21
 22 **PAT:** *(VANITY reveals this Proof Fact as PAT says this.)* John's
 23 proof: The Savior will enter Jerusalem in a triumphant
 24 display on a donkey. Jesus entered Jerusalem in a
 25 triumphant display on a donkey. Rabbi, are you
 26 convinced?

27 **RABBI:** Absolutely not. A king on a donkey? What kind of a
 28 king would ride on a donkey? Especially the great king
 29 that God will send.

30 **PAT:** You presented a good argument, John, but not quite
 31 good enough, it seems. *(Audience sympathetically "ohs." PAT*
 32 *turns back to the Prove It Point.)* Jesus Christ is the long-
 33 awaited Savior come to earth.

34 **RABBI:** Prove it.

35 **PAT:** Contestant number three, Mary Magdalene.

1 MARY: From the very first time that I met Jesus, I knew that
 2 he loved me. Whether he was the Promised One or not
 3 didn't matter to me. He had set me free, and that was all
 4 that mattered. But that day at the cross, there were so
 5 many prophesies fulfilled. King David, Isaiah and
 6 Zechariah gave all the details of Jesus' death: the beating,
 7 the mocking, the piercing of his hands and feet, the way
 8 the soldiers drew lots for his clothes, the vinegar he was
 9 given to drink and even his final cry to the Father. All of
 10 this was written hundreds of years before Jesus was even
 11 born. I realized then that Jesus was not just my personal
 12 Savior, but that he was the Savior promised for all
 13 humanity.

14 RABBI: (*Condescending*) I wonder if maybe you are not just an
 15 emotional woman distraught by the death of a friend, and
 16 possibly letting your imagination embellish what
 17 actually happened that day.

18 MARY: Are you calling me a liar?

19 RABBI: Well, I wouldn't say it like that. Maybe stretching the
 20 truth?

21 MARY: Rabbi, I am not lying or stretching the truth or
 22 imagining, as you have said. I was there when they took
 23 his life. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

24

25 SONG: "Were You There?"

26 MARY or CHOIR: (*Singing*)

27 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

28 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

29 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

30 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

31

32 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

33 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

34 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

35

1 **NARRATOR:** *(Mark 15:17-20 and John 19:17-18 spoken over*
 2 *accompaniment)* They put a purple robe on him, then wove
 3 a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to
 4 call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!” Again and again
 5 they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him.
 6 Falling on their knees, they worshiped him. And when
 7 they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe ...
 8 Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the
 9 Skull. Here they crucified him.

10

11 **CHOIR:** *(Singing)*

12 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

13 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

14 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

15 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

16

17 **PAT:** *(VANITY unveils the Proof Fact.)* Mary’s proof: The Savior
 18 will suffer and die at the hands of men. Jesus suffered
 19 and died at the hands of men. Pretty compelling
 20 evidence, Rabbi. Where do you stand now?

21 **RABBI:** *(Growing more unsure)* Well, uh, I would have to do some
 22 studying on those particular prophecies. I still feel fairly
 23 confident that the prophets could not possibly have been
 24 referring to God’s Promised One when they wrote those
 25 things. I still have not heard enough proof to be
 26 convinced, Pat. *(Audience sympathetically “ohs.”)*

27 **PAT:** I’m sorry, Mary. *(Trying to flatter her)* You’ve convinced
 28 me, though. *(Turning back to the Prove It Point)* Jesus Christ
 29 is the long-awaited Savior come to earth.

30 **RABBI:** Prove it.

31 **PAT:** Contestant number four, Cedric, the Roman soldier.
 32 *(Audience boos.)*

33 **CEDRIC:** I am not a Jew like the other contestants here so I
 34 am not familiar with the prophecies concerning the
 35 Savior. In fact, I only saw Jesus one time, but that one

1 time was enough to convince me completely. That one
2 time was the day that Jesus died on the cross.

3 **RABBI:** Only thieves and murderers die on a cross.

4 **CEDRIC:** That is true most of the time. But Jesus didn't die on
5 a cross because of his own sin. He died on that cross for
6 my sin (*Motioning to various people on stage and in the*
7 *audience*) and for your sin and your sin and all our sin. He
8 died so that our sins could be forgiven. I know that this is
9 true because even as I pounded the nails in his hands and
10 feet, I saw only love and forgiveness for me in his eyes.
11 Jesus may not be the one that you have waited for, but he
12 sure is the one that I have waited for all my life.

13 **RABBI:** (*Amazed*) He forgave you?

14 **CEDRIC:** Yes, for everything.

15

16 **SONG:** "Spotless Lamb"

17 **CEDRIC or CHOIR:** (*Singing*)

18 Spotless Lamb, spotless Lamb, holy sacrifice Lamb,
19 All alone, betrayed.

20 Did you love me so that you let your life go

21 To redeem my soul?

22 Do you know, spotless Lamb,

23 Of the bad things that I've done

24 All these weary years?

25 Can you still forgive as I pound in the nails?

26 Do you long to lead me aright?

27

28 I can hear, I can hear your voice crying out,

29 "Father, forgive them."

30 I can see, spotless Lamb, that your death is for me,

31 To make me whole.

32 Surely you must be the Son of God.

33 You have shown me the way at the cross today.

34 You took my sin, spotless Lamb, spotless Lamb.

35 You have shown me the way at the cross today.



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