

THE LAKESHORE PIRATE

by Dan Crawford



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The Lakeshore Pirate

Six novelty sketches for
children's sermons

by Dan Crawford

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(A comprehensive list for all the weeks.
A cast list is also included at the
beginning of each script.)*

Roger — The pirate.

Child 1 (About six to eight years old).

Child 2 (About ten to twelve years old).

Teacher — Sunday school teacher.

Child 3 (About six to eight years old).

Child 4 (About six to eight years old).

Woman 1

Woman 2

Pastor

Leader — Teacher of an adult Sunday school class.

Man 1

Man 2

PRODUCTION NOTES

This play was originally intended as a series of short sketches to be performed one per week over a number of Sundays. It could easily be done all at once as a short play of six scenes if desired.

The scenery is fairly basic. A stage large enough to hold a table with chairs, to simulate a Sunday School room or a pastor's office, would be sufficient. The first scene takes place out of doors, on the church grounds, but within sight of a lake. Having the children in the first scene dressed for an outdoor activity might be enough to suggest that. You should designate someone to hold up a sign to inform the audience about each setting — both time and place — at the beginning of each sketch.

You may use a purchased costume for the pirate or make one yourself with tattered (thrift shop) clothing, a striped shirt, a bandanna on his head, a hoop earring, and an eye patch. A purchased costume may come with a cutlass (curved sword). Fake swords are also available at discount stores. Use plastic only so as not to scare tiny swabs! You will also need a stuffed toucan and either a real or stuffed parrot.

The only other props needed are a Sunday school flyer, a couple brown root beer bottles (I.B.C. brand, for example), papers, plastic cups, juice, a Bible, and craft supplies.

JUST-FOR-FUN PIRATE JOKES

Pirate Roger may use a couple of these each week on his audience of landlubbers!

Q: Why did the pirate like Noah?

A: Because he built an Aaarrrk!

Q: Why did the pirate refuse to say "Aye, aye, Captain"?

A: (Pointing to patch) Because he only had one eye.

Q: Did you hear about the pirate's parrot that fell in love with a duck?

A: The bird kept saying, "Polly wants a quacker."

Q: Where did the one-legged pirate go for breakfast?

A: I-Hop.

Q: What's a pirate's favorite Oldsmobile model?

A: A Cutlass.

Q: What do you call a mathematically gifted buccaneer?

A: A Pi-rate. ($\text{Pi}=3.14$).

Q: If Blackbeard was a pro athlete, who would he play for?

A: Either the Tampa Bay Buccaneers or the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Q: How do pirates make their money?

A: By hook or by crook.

Q: How much does a pirate pay to have his ears pierced? (Or "for corn?")

A: A buccaneer.

Q: What do you get when you cross a pirate swordsman with a zucchini?

A: A squashbuckler.

Q: What is a pirate's favorite cookie?

A: Ships Ahoy.

Q: What does a pirate use to blow his nose?

A: Anchor-chiefs.

Q: Why did the pirate give his ship a coat of paint?

A: Its timbers were shivering.

Week 1
Meeting Pirate Roger

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Cast: **Pirate**, dressed in bizarre, shabby pirate clothes, armed with a sword and a Sunday school flyer.

Child 1

Child 2

Setting: Somewhere outside, on the church property.

(The children are invited to come forward for a time of sharing. PIRATE is at Center Stage. CHILD 1 and CHILD 2 enter.)

PIRATE: Hey, you! Argh!

CHILD 1: Run! It's a pirate!

CHILD 2: Stop! There aren't any pirates anymore. This is just some old guy dressed funny.

PIRATE: Ahoy, ye scurvy dogs! Didn't ye hear my hail? Why don't ye answer?

CHILD 2: Why are you dressed like that? Are you going to a party?

PIRATE: What d'ye mean, why am I dressed like this? I'm a pirate. Didn't ye hear my "Aargh"?

CHILD 2: You're not a real pirate.

CHILD 1: Your pants are torn.

PIRATE: What do ye mean, not real? I've got real pirate clothes, and I've got a real pirate ship.

CHILD 1: Mister, your pants are torn!

PIRATE: So they're torn. What's it to you, ye tiny swab?

CHILD 2: I don't believe you. What pirate ship? Where?

PIRATE: *(Pointing proudly)* Right down there on the lake, there by the big building.

CHILD 2: I don't see a ship.

PIRATE: *(Still pointing)* Just to the starboard, there.

CHILD 2: You mean that old rowboat?

PIRATE: Rowboat? Can't you see the mast, ye blind

- 1 landlubber? No rowboat has a mast!
- 2 **CHILD 2:** It's too small to be a pirate ship!
- 3 **PIRATE:** Aye, she's small, but there's nothing wrong with her
- 4 that treasure won't fix.
- 5 **CHILD 1:** *Why* are your pants torn?
- 6 **PIRATE:** Me pants are torn because I tore them! And there's
- 7 nothing wrong with me pants, not that treasure can't fix.
- 8 Which reminds me ... where be the treasure?
- 9 **CHILD 1:** Treasure can't fix pants! You have to sew them.
- 10 **PIRATE:** Aye, and that's the beauty of it. With treasure, you
- 11 don't have to sew.
- 12 **CHILD 2:** What treasure? We're kids! Nobody gives us anything!
- 13 **PIRATE:** (*Showing the kids a flyer*) Give? Nobody gives
- 14 treasure! Ye take it from them! Besides, it says ye do,
- 15 right here on this paper — see? Treasure!
- 16 **CHILD 2:** Oh. That's for Sunday school.
- 17 **PIRATE:** I don't care who it's *for!* I'm a pirate. Where is it?
- 18 **CHILD 2:** Get real! There isn't any treasure. It's just an
- 19 invitation to come to Sunday school.
- 20 **PIRATE:** Maybe, maybe not. People don't mark treasure on a
- 21 map if there isn't any, and I'll be back on Sunday to get
- 22 it. (*Exits.*)
- 23 **CHILD 1:** Do you think we should tell Mom and Dad?
- 24 **CHILD 2:** Nah. He's just some old wacko. (*They begin to exit.*)
- 25 **CHILD 1:** What's a swab?

Week 2

Treasure Hunt

- 31 **Cast:** Pirate, with a stuffed toucan tied on his shoulder and a
- 32 cutlass in his belt. He still has the Sunday school flyer from
- 33 last week.
- 34 **Child 1**
- 35 **Child 2**

1 **Child 3**

2 **Child 4**

3 **Setting:** Inside the church, at a table. Various papers are strewn
4 around the table. A plastic cup is in front of each child, and
5 a jug of juice may be somewhere visible.

6

7 *(The children are invited to come forward for a time of*
8 *sharing. The TEACHER and CHILD 1-4 are seated around*
9 *the table.)*

10 **TEACHER:** So that's the story of Jonah. Anybody have any
11 questions?

12 **CHILD 3:** Can I have more juice, please?

13 **CHILD 1:** Uh-oh. Here comes the pirate!

14 **TEACHER:** Pirate? *(PIRATE enters with toucan on his shoulder.)*

15 **PIRATE:** Ahoy there, mateys. Where be the treasure?

16 **CHILD 4:** What's that on your shoulder?

17 **PIRATE:** That's me Polly, that is. *(Looking directly at the*
18 *TEACHER)* Aargh! I gave my warning last time. I won't
19 be put off. Where's the treasure?

20 **CHILD 1:** What kind of bird is Polly?

21 **PIRATE:** Are ye blind? It's a parrot she is, and a fine
22 example of the African grey.

23 **CHILD 3:** That's not a parrot! That bird has a big yellow
24 beak, bigger than all the rest of it.

25 **CHILD 4:** I know what it is. It's a toucan!

26 **PIRATE:** Eh?

27 **CHILD 4:** Toucan. *(Scornfully)* Haven't you seen those Fruit
28 Loops commercials?

29 **PIRATE:** You're daft!

30 **CHILD 3:** *(Laughing)* Look! It's stuffed!

31 **PIRATE:** Aye, she did have too many victuals this morning.

32 **CHILD 4:** You're right! I can see the stitches! She's made of
33 cloth.

34 **PIRATE:** Listen, ye scabby, nit-picking lackwits! There's
35 nothing wrong with Polly, not that treasure can't fix.

1 *(Pulls out fake sword.)* So let's talk about that treasure.
 2 **TEACHER:** Now, just a minute. I don't know who you are,
 3 but you have no business pointing a sword at these
 4 children — even a sword like that.
 5 **PIRATE:** *(Moving the sword to point at the TEACHER)* You're
 6 right. The name's Roger, and I'm pointing it at you. Now,
 7 where's the treasure?
 8 **TEACHER:** *(Laughing)* Your sword is plastic! And your first
 9 name is Jolly, isn't it? Did the Pastor put you up to this?
 10 **PIRATE:** *(Angrily)* Do you see me laughing, ye mangy bilge
 11 rat? Making fun of me equipment, and now me name,
 12 too! There's nothing wrong with any of it that treasure
 13 can't fix. *(Pulls out the flyer and points.)* Look at this! Here!
 14 This says you have treasure. Now, where is it?
 15 *(Menacingly)* Or do I have to prove that me bare hands
 16 are real?
 17 **CHILD 1:** Mr. Pirate, the treasure is Jesus.
 18 **PIRATE:** Jesus, huh? How is that?
 19 **TEACHER:** He *is* our Lord. He died so that we could have
 20 eternal life.
 21 **PIRATE:** He's dead, then? Ya thunderin' swab! What good is
 22 that to me?
 23 **CHILD 1:** He's not dead!
 24 **TEACHER:** He's not dead anymore. He rose again on the
 25 third day. He's our Savior!
 26 **PIRATE:** Your Savior, huh? Well, you're going to need a
 27 Savior if you don't come across with that treasure. I'll be
 28 back to get it soon. *(Threateningly)* And I won't be put off
 29 again. *(Exits.)*

Week 3

Yo-Ho-Ho and a Bottle of Root Beer

35 **Cast:** Pirate, carrying an empty brown bottle and the Sunday

1 school flyer.

2 **Woman 1**

3 **Woman 2**

4 **Setting:** The church kitchen. Same table, now used as a kitchen
5 counter.

6

7 *(The children are invited to come forward for a time of*
8 *sharing. WOMAN 1 and WOMAN 2 are performing a*
9 *kitchen task.)*

10 **PIRATE:** *(Enters singing off-key.)* **Sixteen men on a dead**
11 **man's chest, yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum!** *(Speaking)* **I**
12 **never did see what those men would be doing there,**
13 **but that's pirates for ye. Aargh!** *(To WOMAN 1)* **Would**
14 **ye have any grog for me, missus? Me bottle's empty.**

15 **WOMAN 1:** Grog? What's that?

16 **PIRATE:** Rum, of course. It's the *only* drink for a seafaring
17 man.

18 **WOMAN 1:** You had rum in that bottle?

19 **PIRATE:** Aye, that I did, but it's missing now.

20 **WOMAN 2:** But your bottle says "root beer" on the side!

21 **PIRATE:** Aye, that it does. It's a fact that agrieves me
22 considerable — false advertising.

23 **WOMAN 1:** Well, we don't have any grog here.

24 **WOMAN 2:** We don't have root beer, either. The kids drank
25 it all.

26 **PIRATE:** I wouldn't take it. Grog is what I'm after.

27 **WOMAN 1:** But you had root beer!

28 **PIRATE:** Look, missus, there's nothing wrong with me rum
29 that a little treasure can't fix!

30 **WOMAN 2:** Treasure?

31 **PIRATE:** Aye. It's what all pirates are after. But this crew
32 seems to be sadly lacking that cargo.

33 **WOMAN 1:** We don't have a lot of money, if that's what you
34 mean.

35 **PIRATE:** So it is. But why should ye send a message that ye

- 1 do? (*Pulls out the Sunday school flyer and shows them.*)
 2 **WOMAN 2:** Oh, that's the Sunday school flyer. That's talking
 3 about Jesus.
 4 **PIRATE:** That's just what the others said also. But it makes
 5 no sense.
 6 **WOMAN 2:** Of course it does.
 7 **WOMAN 1:** Haven't you ever done anything wrong?
 8 **PIRATE:** Aye. (*Sadly*) There be a few times that I betrayed
 9 the Pirates' Code.
 10 **WOMAN 1:** Then Jesus can forgive you!
 11 **PIRATE:** What? Why should I want him to do that?
 12 **WOMAN 2:** So you can go to heaven.
 13 **PIRATE:** Oh. I've heard terrible things about that place —
 14 people having wings and playing harps and such. It
 15 don't sound like a place a good pirate would like.
 16 **WOMAN 1:** I really think you should talk to the Pastor, if
 17 you really *are* looking for treasure, that is.
 18 **PIRATE:** What's a pastor, then?
 19 **WOMAN 1:** Why, he's the ... (*with sudden inspiration*) the
 20 Captain!
 21 **PIRATE:** Good. I'll be talking to him, then. (*Exits.*)
 22 **WOMAN 2:** Good thinking. The Pastor can explain things to
 23 him.
 24 **WOMAN 1:** Yes. But we'd better warn the Pastor first.

25 26 27 **Week 4**

28 **Pirate vs. Pastor**

29
30 **Cast:** Pirate with sword

31 **Pastor**

32 **Setting:** The Pastor's office. You should have a desk and chair and
 33 an intercom speaker on the desk.

34

35 (*The children are invited to come forward for a time of*

1 *sharing. The PASTOR is seated at his desk. The PIRATE*
 2 *enters.)*

3 **PIRATE: Ahoy, there, Captain! Aargh!**

4 **PASTOR: Good morning.**

5 **PIRATE: (*Pulling out his sword*) I'm here for the treasure,**
 6 **Captain. I won't be put off again.**

7 **PASTOR: You do realize your sword is fake, don't you?**

8 **PIRATE: What is it with ye church people? Always harping**
 9 **on me equipment. I tell ye, there's nothing wrong with**
 10 **me sword, not that treasure can't cure. So hand it over.**

11 **PASTOR: You know, I think you're right. There's nothing**
 12 **wrong with you or your equipment that our treasure**
 13 **can't cure.**

14 **PIRATE: What do you mean, "with me"? First those women**
 15 **tell me I need forgivin', then you say I need fixin'! Is all**
 16 **this church does is pick a body apart?**

17 **PASTOR: Roger — may I call you Roger? We're talking about**
 18 **God. Anything you've done wrong has broken God's law.**
 19 **To him, you're a criminal. It's his forgiveness you need,**
 20 **not ours. We are all in the same boat. We need God to**
 21 **forgive us.**

22 **PIRATE: That may be, Captain. But pirates take a heap of**
 23 **forgiving, and that don't answer about the treasure.**

24 **PASTOR: That's where Jesus comes in.**

25 **PIRATE: You're telling me this Jesus is your treasure now?**
 26 **That's what them Sunday school swabs were telling me.**
 27 **It don't hold water.**

28 **PASTOR: You see, Jesus is God's son.**

29 **PIRATE: What does that have to do with me? I can't hold him**
 30 **for ransom, can I?**

31 **PASTOR: No. He's already ransomed you.**

32 **PIRATE: Now you be trying to bewilder me.**

33 **PASTOR: Not at all. It's really very simple. We need God's**
 34 **forgiveness because we are all guilty. But guilt brings**
 35 **punishment. Jesus took our punishment for us. Now God**

- 1 can forgive us. That's why he's our treasure. He paid for
2 our mistakes.
- 3 **PIRATE:** How could he pay for me?
- 4 **PASTOR:** God sent Jesus to be executed for something he
5 didn't do. Then God could forgive *us*.
- 6 **PIRATE:** (*Beat*) You're saying after all the plundering and
7 pillaging I've done, God would let me sign articles?
- 8 **PASTOR:** Yes, precisely.
- 9 **PIRATE:** Even after the problem with the sailboat?
- 10 **PASTOR:** Yes.
- 11 **PIRATE:** And the time the wakeboard sank with all hands?
- 12 **PASTOR:** Yes, even after that.
- 13 **PIRATE:** And the woman who ...
- 14 **PASTOR:** (*Interrupting*) Yes!
- 15 **PIRATE:** That sounds good, Captain. (*Pulls out sword again.*)
16 Now, what about that treasure.
- 17 **PASTOR:** Jesus is the only treasure we have, Roger.
- 18 **PIRATE:** I'm just teasing, Captain. (*Putting sword away*) Ye've
19 told me something good. I want to hear more.
- 20 **PASTOR:** I think you should join one of our Sunday school
21 classes.
- 22 **PIRATE:** I don't hold with book learning, Captain. It ain't
23 natural.
- 24 **PASTOR:** Don't you want to know what the Articles say?
- 25 **PIRATE:** (*Grudgingly*) I guess ye be right. But I don't get on
26 real well with those little swabs, Captain. They laughed
27 at my Polly.
- 28 **PASTOR:** We'll put you in with a few grown-ups, then. Nine-
29 thirty, Sunday morning.
- 30 **PIRATE:** Middle of the forenoon watch, Captain. I'll be here.
31 (*Exits.*)
- 32 **PASTOR:** (*On intercom*) Lucy, cancel that call to the police. I
33 don't think we'll need them.
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Week 5

The Best Crew There Is

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Cast: Pirate with his cutlass

Leader

Man 1

Man 2

Setting: A Sunday school room with a small conference table.

(The children are invited to come forward for a time of sharing. The CAST is seated around the table.)

LEADER: The Scripture we're looking at this morning is about the pearl of great price. *(Reads.)* "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it" (Matthew 13:45-46). Now, what is this talking about?

MAN 1: It's about money.

MAN 2: And investments.

MAN 1: Right. When we find a good buy, we should go for it with everything we've got.

PIRATE: Aye! But maybe not *buying*. Aargh!

LEADER: *(Hesitantly)* Uh, no. Actually, Jesus is talking about the kingdom of God.

MAN 1: Huh?

LEADER: Jesus is trying to tell people how valuable it is to be part of God's kingdom.

MAN 2: Where's that?

LEADER: Everywhere. Anywhere. It just means you choose to be loyal to God.

PIRATE: So ye've signed Articles, and wherever ye are, you're part of the crew?

LEADER: Yes, that's it.

MAN 1: I get it. But how valuable is it?

LEADER: That's the point. It's like finding a treasure on a

1 piece of property and selling everything you have to
2 buy the property.

3 PIRATE: Or going in with cannons blazing and taking the
4 treasure out of their cold, dead hands!

5 LEADER: *(Taken aback)* Uh, yeah. I think you've got the
6 idea.

7 MAN 2: I still don't quite get it. What's in it for me?

8 LEADER: Salvation. Eternal life. And a life on this earth
9 that is full of the joy of belonging to Jesus.

10 MAN 2: What about money?

11 LEADER: I think the story speaks for itself. The Bible says,
12 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be
13 also" (Matthew 6:21). Money's fine, but the kingdom of
14 God is more important.

15 MAN 2: That doesn't make sense to me.

16 PIRATE: What's wrong with ye, ye swab? The man's talking
17 about joining the best crew there is! Not a marooned
18 bunch of apes with gold and no place to spend it, but
19 a high-class crew that's always in treasure! What's gold
20 to that?

21 MAN 2: You're a lousy pirate! What do you know?

22 PIRATE: *(Drawing cutlass)* I know gold. I've held it, and I've
23 spent it. I know the worth of it, top to bottom. And it
24 ain't enough. Ye need more in this life.

25 MAN 2: I don't.

26 PIRATE: *(Shouting)* Then get out! *(Chasing MAN 2 with the*
27 *cutlass until MAN 2 exits.)* We don't need ye here,
28 interfering with yer betters and their learnin'. Be gone
29 with ye!

30 MAN 1: *(Nervously)* My wife's calling. I need to go. *(Exits.)*

31 PIRATE: *(Coming part way back)* I'll follow the swab and
32 keep him moving. He's just the sort to turn to thieving
33 when your back's turned. And get the Articles set up;
34 I'm ready to sign! *(Exits.)*

35 LEADER: *(Reflective pause)* This is different. *(Exits.)*



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