

Daniel and the Three Boys

THE ORIGINAL STAGEPLAY FOR KIDS .



Cleveland O. McLeish

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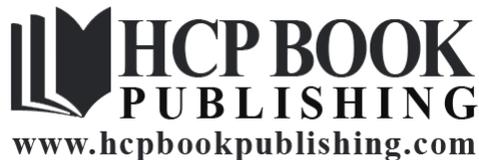


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Characters

Principal (Adult Role or Teenager)

Daniel (7-9 Years Old)

Shane (7-9 Years Old)

Michel (5-6 Years Old)

Adadnegro (8-10 Years Old)

Mitch (9-11 Years Old)

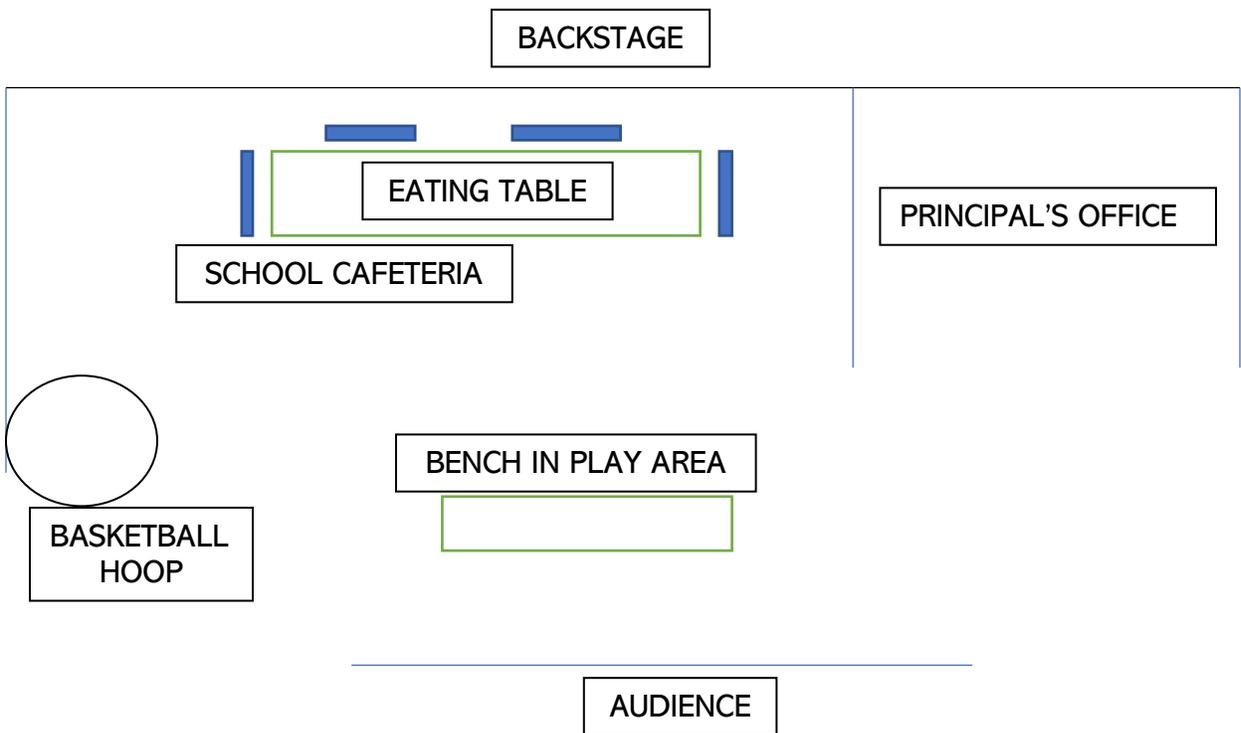
Sissy (9-11 Years Old)

Coach Liz (Adult Role or Teenager)

Mary (Adult Role or Teenager)

Setting

To avoid any scenes changes, the following setting is our recommendation. You are free to make adjustments, and changes as you see fit and based on your budget.



The Story

Daniel and three of his friends from Mexico (*or any other country of your choosing*) are transferred from their home country to a new community and school in the United States of America. They are greeted with a culture unfamiliar to them with rules that conflict with their own religious persuasion. They must decide if they will stand for God and suffer the consequences or deny their faith and become like everybody else.

Daniel and the Three Boys extract principles from the Biblical story of Daniel and the Three Hebrew Boys and brings it into a modern-day context. This contemporary dramatic stage play teaches some fundamental principles of the faith, for example, it is okay to be different; we don't have to succumb to peer pressure; if we are not ashamed of God, He will not be ashamed of us and living a righteous and godly life comes with its rewards and incentives.

This play will teach our children to not be ashamed of being a light in their environment, especially during times when parents are absent.

Play Details

Length: 40 Minutes

Cast: 6 Males, 3 Females. (Some of the Male roles can be Female, e.g. Principal)

Audience: Children, Teens & Adults

Genre: Contemporary Drama

The Script



SCENE 1

Lights Up

SETTING: Principal's Office

PRINCIPAL DEAN is sitting behind his desk, looking through some folders on his desk.

DANIEL, SHANE, MICHEL & ABADNEGRO are standing before his desk.

PRINCIPAL: First, let me welcome you four to the United States of America.

DANIEL and the OTHERS nod.

PRINCIPAL: I hope the plane ride was satisfactory.

SHANE: The turn balance was pretty rough.

PRINCIPAL looks confused.

DANIEL: He meant turbulence.

PRINCIPAL: Oh.

Principal reviews the file.

PRINCIPAL: So, one of you is from Canada, and the other three are from Mexico. Who is Daniel?

Daniel sticks his hand up.

PRINCIPAL: And who is Shane?

Shane sticks his hand up.

PRINCIPAL: And who is --- can you pronounce this for me M.I.C.H.E.L.

MICHEL: It's Michel, sir.

Shane and Abadnegro stifles a laugh.

PRINCIPAL: I thought that was a girl's name?

SHANE: It is, sir.

PRINCIPAL: Excuse me.

MICHEL: It's not a girl's name because I am a boy.

PRINCIPAL: Right. Right. And finally, we have... *(rubs his forehead)* ... I am hesitant to try and pronounce this one.

MICHEL: Abadnegro, sir. I will take a girl's name any day over Abadnegro.

Pause.

PRINCIPAL: Abadnegro! Who gave you that name?

ABADNEGRO: My mother did, sir.

PRINCIPAL: And you three, from Mexico, have the same mother, correct?

SHANE: Yes, sir.

PRINCIPAL: By the way, you don't have to punctuate all your answers with sir. You can just say yes or no.

DANIEL: Yes --- sir.

PRINCIPAL: So, Daniel? You seem to already know these three?

DANIEL: I make friends easy.

PRINCIPAL: Well, I think we are going to have an interesting time. You know how to find your classes. If you need anything, you know where to find me, or anyone from our competent staff.

SHANE: Yes, sir.

PRINCIPAL: You boys make me feel so old with all this sir talk. Anyway, I need to lay down some basic ground rules. No playing during class time. No loitering after school dismisses. No religious talk or practices.

DANIEL: Sir, we are Christians.

PRINCIPAL: I see that in your profiles. So, that last rule applies specifically to you four. No praying, reading Bibles, or, what do you call it, soul winning stuff. Just leave all that at the gate before you enter this school. Understood?

The boys nod.

PRINCIPAL: Off with you then.

The boys leave the office, and out onto the PLAY AREA.

SHANE: No religious stuff? Momma always say we should pray together.

MICHEL: Now we need to hide and pray.

ABADNEGRO: That ain't right.

DANIEL: I don't know about you guys, but I will not hide. I am not ashamed of my God.

SHANE: We could get into trouble.

DANIEL: So! All the disciples got into trouble. Didn't you learn anything in Sunday School?

SHANE: I am not as brave as you are, Daniel.

DANIEL: Courage comes from knowing who God is.

SHANE: Which always gets people into trouble.

DANIEL: Maybe this is our opportunity to prove our love for God.

SHANE: I don't know, man.

Daniel shakes his head.

DANIEL: Let's get to class. We don't want to be late.

They exit.

Lights Out

SCENE 2

Lights Up

SETTING: Play Area

Daniel and the Three Boys are sitting on a bench, despondent.

Principal sits in his office doing paperwork.

SHANE: It's lunch time. What are we gonna eat?

MICHEL: I am famished.

ABADNEGRO: Why can't we just eat what everybody else is eating?

DANIEL: American food is not healthy. It gives people cancer and all manner of sicknesses.

MICHEL: Momma warned us. All they eat is donuts and muffins. We are not used to that kind of food. I feel sick just thinking about it.

SHANE: So, what are we going to eat then?

MITCH and SISSY walks on. They are munching on two oversized muffins.

MITCH: What do we have here? The four stooges.

Mitch and Sissy laughs.

Mitch sits between the boys, biting into his muffin.

MITCH: You all look hungry. Want a bite?

He extends the muffin to them. They refuse.

SISSY: Oh, so you think you are better than us, huh?

MICHEL: You know how much sugar is in that muffin. It's not good for you.

MITCH: These fools really do think they are better than us.

DANIEL: We don't want any trouble.

MITCH: What trouble? There's no trouble here.

SISSY: So, you don't want to eat our food huh?

Mitch grabs Shane, while Sissy tries to stuff muffin in his mouth. The others try to defend Shane but is shoved aside by the twin bullies.

PRINCIPAL hears the commotion and rushes out of his office.

PRINCIPAL: What is going on here?

Mitch and Sissy pull back, trying to look innocent.

MITCH: Your new students just attacked us.

SHANE: That's not true, sir. He's lying.

MITCH: You calling me a liar, squirt?

SHANE: That's exactly what I'm calling you, Bully.

PRINCIPAL: Enough. Mitch and Sissy. My office. Now.

They head towards the office.

PRINCIPAL: *(rubs his head)* What is this I hear, that you guys have not been eating at the cafeteria?

DANIEL: We are not used to that kind of food, sir. Plus, our parents say we are to stay away from the typical American diet because it makes people sick.

PRINCIPAL: I see. And what will you eat? Surely you need food like everybody else.

SHANE: We like fruits and vegetables, sir. Or anything that grows in the ground.

MICHEL: Irish potato, collard greens, yam, pumpkin...

PRINCIPAL: This is interesting. So, you guys have never had a McDonald meal? Or KFC?

SHANE: No, sir. I had pretzels once. It made me very sick.

PRINCIPAL: Our cafeteria budget is very limited. You boys need to eat what everybody else is eating.

SHANE: So we get sick and sluggish like them?

PRINCIPAL: What do you mean sluggish?

DANIEL: Look, sir. We have been eating certain foods all our lives. We have seen what your diet does to people, and we prefer to stay away from that kind of food.

PRINCIPAL: Fine. Fine. Oh boy! *(thinks for a beat)* Let me see what I can do to arrange for them to do some steam vegetables and green banana or something.

DANIEL: We appreciate that, sir.

PRINCIPAL: You boys are going to get me fired.

DANIEL: You just watch and see if we don't function at a higher level than everyone else.

PRINCIPAL: Sure. Whatever you say. Let me arrange that with the kitchen staff. In the meantime, please stay out of trouble.

Principal goes to his office where Mitch and Sissy are waiting.

Lights Out

SCENE 3

Lights Up

SETTING: Play Area

There is a basketball hoop permanently fixed to the wall, and a small beach ball which is used as a basketball.

COACH LIZ comes on jogging and blows her whistle hard.

DANIEL, SHANE, MICHEL, ABADNEGRO, MISSY and MITCH comes on in their jogging suit.

COACH LIZ: Let's shoot some hoops. To warm up.

MITCH and SISSY play against the boys. It is obvious that the boys are outplaying and outmanoeuvring them. Mitch and Sissy are easily out of breath.

After a few minutes, Coach blows her whistle.

COACH LIZ: Now I want you to run around this field twice.

All SIX take off. They go around once, Mitch and Sissy are lagging behind barely moving as the other four lap them a few times on the stage, jogging as if they are just warming up.

Mitch and Sissy finally collapse on stage.

MITCH: No more.

DANIEL: *(jumping on spot)* Coach, we are just ready to go.

COACH LIZ: Good. Let's do another four laps.

The four take off --- Mitch and Sissy remain on the floor, breathing heavily.

MITCH: *(sticks his hand up)* Coach, can I get a donut?

SISSY: *(sticks her hand up)* Me too, Coach. And a coke.

Coach puts her hand on her hips, shaking her head at the two.

Lights Out

SCENE 4

Lights Up

SETTING: School Cafeteria

Daniel and the Three sit at a dining table with their done-to-order lunch.

Daniel holds hands with Shane, Michel and Abadnegro and they pray silently.

MITCH and SISSY walks on and sees them. They immediately run to the Principal's office. They mime a brief conversation with Principal, pointing towards the cafeteria.

Principal comes out and sees the boys.

PRINCIPAL: Daniel, and you three. My office. Now!

Daniel and the Three follows Principal into his office.

Mitch and Sissy are pleased with themselves.

PRINCIPAL: Boys, c'mon. I told you before, we don't do prayers in this school.

SHANE: But we do, sir.

PRINCIPAL: If you are going to be part of this school, you need to abide by the rules.

DANIEL: We have no problem with rules, sir, but obedience to Jesus comes first.

PRINCIPAL: Shh! We don't use the J word around here.

SHANE: J Word? You mean Jesus?

PRINCIPAL: Don't push me, son. I want you four to desist from praying in public and any such religious nonsense.

ABADNEGRO: We can't, sir.

PRINCIPAL: Oh, but you have to.

MICHEL: Or what, sir?

PRINCIPAL: Or you will be published --- or even expelled from this school. And if you get expelled, they will deport you back to where you are coming from because you are on a study visa.

DANIEL: Our God is able to deliver us. But even if He doesn't, we will still be obedient to Him.

PRINCIPAL: I am not asking you to bow to anything. Just abide by the school rules. Now get to class and by the way, I am calling your mother.

The FOUR get up and exits the office.

SHANE: What are we going to do?

DANIEL: I don't know about you guys, but God says if we deny Him on earth, He will deny us in heaven. I don't want to be denied.

MICHEL: Neither do I.

SHANE: Me neither.

ABADNEGRO: Me neither too...or three.

DANIEL: Let's play some ball.

They start shooting hoops.

Lights Out

SCENE 5

Lights Up

SETTING: School Cafeteria

The FOUR walks on with their box lunches. They sit to eat.

They pause over their food.

SHANE: So, we are supposed to eat without blessing we food?

MICHEL: That is the law of the land.

SHANE: I can't do it. I feel so ungrateful to eat without giving thanks.

DANIEL: It is ungrateful.

They pause, then close their eyes.

DANIEL: For health, and strength and daily food. We thank you Lord, amen.

Mitch runs on.

MITCH: I saw that, and I am telling.

SHANE: Go ahead.

MITCH: You guys know that If I report this, they will expel you from the school?

SHANE: Just go do what you need to do and do it quickly, Judas.

MITCH: You guys are weird. You would pass up being in a good school because of some stupid religious practice?

Mitch grabs Shane by his shirt.

MITCH: Did your momma drop you on your head when you were a baby?

DANIEL: Leave him alone.

Mitch shoves Daniel aside.

MITCH: Maybe I should really teach all four of you a lesson.

Mitch is getting ready to beat on the four.

COACH LIZ runs on and blows her whistle.

COACH LIZ: Take it to the field boys. Give me five laps.

SHANE: But we haven't had our lunch yet.

COACH LIZ: Excuse me!

DANIEL: We were just about to have our lunch, Miss Coach.

COACH LIZ: Well then, eat up quickly. Then give me six laps.

MITCH: Six? You said five.

COACH LIZ: Have you had your lunch already?

MITCH: Yes, Coach.

COACH LIZ: Get moving then. Seven laps.

Coach Liz blows her whistle. Mitch takes off.

Lights Out

SCENE 6

Lights Up

SETTING: Principal's Office

Principal is sitting behind his desk.

MARY walks on. She wears heavy makeup, dressed inappropriately and chewing aggressively on bubble gum.

COACH LIZ walks on and blows her whistle.

Mary takes off her shoes and is ready to defend herself.

MARY: Why you sneaking up on a sister like that, lady?

COACH LIZ: Excuse me?

MARY: Are you trying to scare me to death?

COACH LIZ: Are you related, by any chance, to Shane, Michel and Abadnegro? The three new students?

MARY: Yeah, they my boys.

COACH LIZ: I see.

MARY: I see? Who are you and what's with the whistle blowing? You practicing for the Olympics or what?

COACH LIZ: Are you looking for the boys?

MARY: I see them every day. I am here for the Principal.

COACH LIZ: Principal?

MARY: Are you deaf or something?

Coach Liz points to the Principals office.

Mary excuses herself and goes into the office. Principal is sitting at his desk, rummaging through paperwork, as usual.

MARY: Mr. Principal, sir, I am here. You told me on the phone you wanted me to come and look about my boys. So whassup?

PRINCIPAL: Excuse me? Who are you?

MARY: My three sons go to your school. I am Mary. We talked on the phone. You called me. Any of this ring a bell?

PRINCIPAL: Ohh, you must be the mother of Shane, Michel and Abadnegro.

MARY: Why'd you call me down here, Mr. Principal?

PRINCIPAL: Listen, Miss ---

MARY: I am not a Miss, I am a Mrs. I didn't get into the United States of America by being a Miss. Mr. Principal, sir, you remind me so much of my husband. He talks nice, like you.

PRINCIPAL: Anyway, Madam. I called you to talk about your sons. They are breaking our school rules and risking their place at this school.

MARY: Which rule did they break?

PRINCIPAL: I have talked to them several times about praying at school and reading a Bible in public.

Pause.

Longer pause.

MARY: So, they didn't get into a fight?

PRINCIPAL: No, Ma'am.

MARY: You called me all the way down here because my boys are praying and reading a Bible?

PRINCIPAL: It's not allowed here.

MARY: Let me get this straight; they didn't steal anything?

PRINCIPAL: No, ma'am.

Mary takes out the bubble gum and sticks it on the Principals desk.

MARY: You hauled me all the way across town to tell me that my three boys are the most well-behaved students in your school?

PRINCIPAL: I didn't say they were well-behaved.

MARY: Did the boys fight anybody?

PRINCIPAL: No. They are just praying and reading their Bible, and we want them to stop.

MARY: Did the boys disrespect you or your momma?

PRINCIPAL: No, they haven't.

MARY: So, why did you call me down here?

PRINCIPAL: Because I need you to speak to them so they understand that they should not be praying and reading their Bible here at school, in public.

MARY: And that is all they are accused of doing wrong?

PRINCIPAL: It is actually a very serious offense. They could get expelled for it.

MARY: If my boys are as well behaved as I know they can be...never causing trouble, never looking for trouble...and you want to expel them for being an exemplary example for all your other students, then maybe this school don't deserve to have them here. So go ahead and expel them.

Mary turns and exits.

MARY: And Mr. Principal, if you ever call my phone again for any such nonsense, I will come down here and you will see just how different I am from my boys.

Mary storms off, almost bumping Coach Liz over.

PRINCIPAL: Nice talking to you, MADAM. Thank you for understanding.

COACH LIZ: *(enters the office area)* Sir, all is well?

Principal uses a pencil to dig the gum off his desk.

PRINCIPAL: *(fake smiles)* Never been better.

Pause.

PRINCIPAL: I think I have an idea how to deter these boys from their religious practices. I am going to inflict some hard labour. *(Smiles)*.

Lights Out

SCENE 7

Lights Up

SETTING: Play Area

Daniel and the Three Boys are cleaning up the yard, picking up garbage and sweeping the grounds.

They seem to be enjoying the hard labour.

They start to sing a lively, upbeat song while they work.

Principal watches them from his office. He walks over to them.

PRINCIPAL: Hey, boys. C'mon. This is supposed to be punishment, not a time to celebrate.

DANIEL: The Bible says, whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

ABADNEGRO: And don't forget, the joy of the Lord gives us strength.

Principal shakes his head.

PRINCIPAL: What is it about you boys and this God?

The Boys sing:

"He's all over me, and He's keeping me alive, keeping me alive, Keeping me alive. Yes, He's all over me, and He's keeping me alive. Jesus, is keeping me alive." (See song here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MsAK8xQS0CU>)

PRINCIPAL: Stop – stop – stop singing!

SHANE: Sir, do you have anything else for us to do? We are just about done here.

Principal shakes his head and goes to his office.

Lights Out

SCENE 8

Lights Up

SETTING: Principal's office

PRINCIPAL meets with COACH LIZ.

PRINCIPAL: I don't know what else to do with these four young boys.

COACH LIZ: I like them.

PRINCIPAL: They excel in class. They do whatever you tell them to do, except not to pray and all that religious stuff.

COACH LIZ: They excel in sports. They have won a few trophies for us at several meets. The first in this school's history. They seem to have unlimited energy.

PRINCIPAL: They are hospitable --- and filled with exuberant joy. No matter what you do to them, they always come out smiling. I think they have mental issues.

COACH LIZ: No, they don't. Maybe we are the ones with the mental issues. They are the best behaving students we have and, based on our laws, the only ones who qualify to be expelled.

PRINCIPAL: And by law, I should have them expelled.

COACH LIZ: Maybe we can learn from them.

PRINCIPAL: What do you suggest we do?

COACH LIZ: I think we should make Daniel the school president. His three friends can be his assistants.

Pause.

PRINCIPAL: Good idea. *(aside)* I am so getting fired for this.

Pause.

Lights Fade to Black