

CROSSPOINT Youth scripts

Premiere Issue

Synopsis: As a spin-off from the famous "Footprints" reading, this Reader's Theater rendition imagines heelmarks as a symbol for our reluctance to go where God sees fit. A high school kid discovers God's faithfulness even in the most difficult soccer season.

Topic: Hard times, Sports, God's faithfulness

Time Requirements: 3 minutes

Characters: Four readers with scripts. Reader 1 plays a high school soccer player, and Reader 3 plays the Lord. But parts can be adapted, and played by guys or girls.

User's Guide

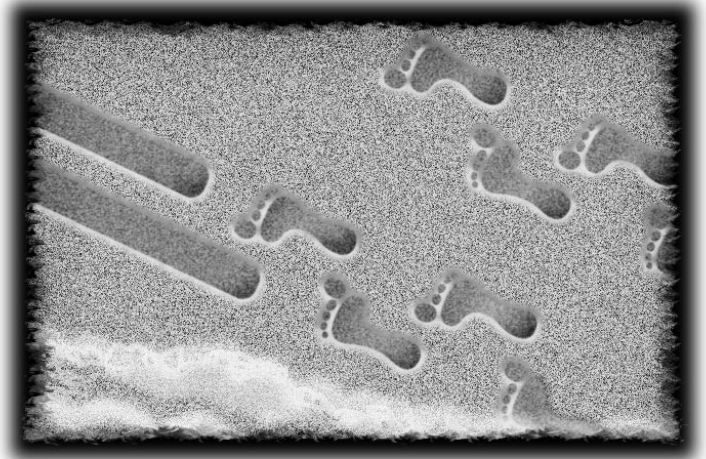


Scripture link: Isaiah 42:16 I will lead the blind

by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.

Author's Note: Bring in a copy of the real poem and read it for any kids who might not have seen it. You can get it off the web very easily at

(<http://www.ttom.net/jesus.html>)

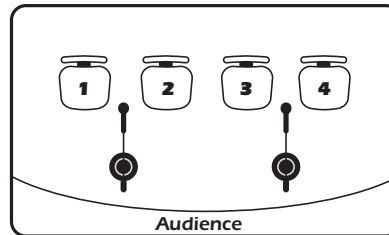


Heelmarks in the Sand

Props: Four stools and four black script folders.

Technical: Nothing too difficult here. Stage lights on the readers will help, but aren't necessary. Although four wireless microphones would be nice, you can get by with as little as 2 stand mikes evenly spaced.

Stage Setup:



Script

0 minutes

#1: One night a boy had a dream.

#2: He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the LORD.

#3: Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.

#4: For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonged to him, and the other to the LORD.

#1: When the last scene on his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand.

#2: He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints.

 *Author's note: The point here is not to mock the famous poem, but to bring out a new dimension to God's care.*

 *Author's note: You'll notice there's no blocking directions for this script. That's because the reader's stay on their stools the whole time. They use the script as a sort of prop and work together as team story-tellers. Their focus is outward toward the audience, even when they're conversing with each other.*



Scripture Link- Isaiah

40:10-11 See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

#4: He also noticed that it happened at the most frustrating times in his life.

#1: Then he looked more closely.

#3: He saw something he had never noticed before.

#2: There, beside the footprints, where two narrow trenches engraved unmistakably into the sand.

#4: This was rather curious, so he questioned the LORD about it.

#1: Lord, this is strange. Please explain to me what I see in the sand.

#4: And the Lord answered

#3: Have you not seen the plaque on thousands of dining room walls?

#2: And the lad replied

#1: Of course I have Lord. It's hard to escape seeing it.

1 minute

#3: Then you know that sometimes through the course of your life, you weren't doing much walking.

#4: The Lord firmly replied.

#1: Oh, wait! I know this part. Sometimes you had to carry me. I remember it from the poem.

#3: Yes, I did carry you — during times you were too weak. But there were other times...

#1: What other times?

#3: Other times when you could walk, but you... wouldn't.

#1: So the trenches...

- #3:** Heelmarks. That's when you dug in your heels and I had to coax you along.
- #1:** Coax me? Looks more like dragging to me. You were dragging me?
- #3:** Let's just say you weren't happy about it.
- #1:** Wow! Look at that section.
- #2:** Exclaimed the boy
- #1:** It must be a half mile long.
- #3:** That was the better part of your soccer season.
- #4:** Replied the Lord
- #1:** Man I hated practice. I only played in 2 games all season.
- #3:** Actually it was 3.
- #1:** Whatever. It wasn't worth all the work.
- #3:** Oh I think it was. You know when I was most proud of you?

2 minutes

- #2:** Asked the Lord with a smile
- #1:** When I stopped that one goal against St. Matthews?
- #3:** No
- #4:** said the Lord
- #3:** Although that was pretty good.
- #1:** When?
- #2:** inquired the lad, desperate to know at what point he had succeeded.
- #3:** During that last game when your team was down 4-0 and coach put you in for the last 2 minutes.

 *Author's Note: Most people don't know the Lord's a big soccer fan.*



Discussion Point: How do you feel about that? Does God ever really drag us? Have you ever been through a time you felt like you were being dragged?



Scripture Link- Jonah 1:3
But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.



Scripture Link: Colossians 3:23-24 Obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving



Discussion point: Have you ever had to do something that seemed impossible? What kept you going? Why does this guy give it all in a losing cause?

#1: That was a lost cause

#4: grumbled the boy, conjuring up the painful memory

#3: It would have been...

#2: replied the Lord

#3: except that you gave everything you had for those two minutes. You stopped feeling sorry for yourself. People noticed that. I noticed that.

#1: And that's when you were dragging me?

#3: Oh no

#4: the Lord replied

#3: That's where the heelmarks end.

3 minutes

Lights Out.

 **Musical Idea:** "Well, I've got this way of thinking that comes so naturally. Where I believe the whole world is revolving around me. And I got this way of living that I have to die to every single day..." These words, an excerpt from "The Change" (Steven Curtis Chapman, *Speechless*, 1999), would work well right before this sketch. You could even use it as an introduction. It's upbeat and strong in its message that we need to walk by God's Spirit and not just dress up in a Christian "costume."



Scripture Link-

Hebrews 12:7-8 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.

Date Performed: _____

Actors Used: _____



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