



 **BACK--
TO THE CROSS**

RUNNING SCRIPT


(music begins to   "Back to the Cross." Stage lights come up on a large cross and a lovely prayer garden with a bench in beautiful Worthington Park. The children of Midway Community Church are participating in the final day of Vacation Bible School.

MS. MADDIE

MAY: (during song, meas. 56) **And the winner is . . . Ava Malcolm!** (Ava proudly approaches Ms. May) **We are happy to give you this cross necklace in recognition for memorizing 20 Bible verses!** (speaking next line as she gives Ava the necklace) **See? It's identical to this beautiful cross that stands in our prayer garden. This cross is almost 100 years old—almost as old as our church! Congratulations on all your hard work, Ava!**

(Everyone cheers) (music continues and ends)

SCENE 1

 [SFX—park atmosphere (opt.)] (Morgan sits by herself on the bench in the prayer garden)

AVA: (approaching with a juice pouch and a cookie) **Didn't you want to have a snack?**

MORGAN: (deadpan in a sarcastic tone) **Some stale cookies? Yeah, that sounds "amazing."**

AVA: (cheerfully undeterred) **Morgan, you don't mean that.**

MORGAN: **No offense, Ava. I know you invited me to this . . . BVS . . . thing . . .**

AVA: **It's VBS, silly! It stands for Vacation Bible School.**

MORGAN: **Whatever . . . but this is NOT my jam. You know I don't like being outside. You might as well have locked me up in summer school, putting me in this . . . (reads plaque on bench) C.W. Worthington Park. He probably has a hidden camera on us right now, laughing at my misery. (shaking her fist to sky dramatically) You win, C.W. Worthington, you win!**

AVA: (spreading her arms out) **But look how pretty it is! And look at the plaque on this bench. The prayer garden was built as a place the community could gather to pray!**

NORMAN: *(approaches Ava and Morgan; followed closely by Finn)* **Hey, group! Having a good time?**

MORGAN: *(falsely cheerful)* **Yep. It's totally "peachy keen."**

AVA: *(still cheerful, but matter of fact)* **It's not Morgan's jam.**

MORGAN: **Well, folks, it's been real . . . I'm outta here.** *(she stands to leave)*

NORMAN: **Wait! You're a part of our group—and we need the whole group to participate in the Final Bible Challenge.** *(faces front dramatically and quotes the tagline)* **"More than just a Bible challenge . . . A QUEST OF CHAMPIONS."** *(returns focus back to Morgan)* **You can't leave...we need you!**

MORGAN: *(dryly)* **Wow . . . that is super motivating. Norman, is your life so lame that you don't realize how boring this is? There's nothing you could do to make me stay.**

NORMAN: **What if . . . what if I show you something very few people have ever seen?**

MORGAN: **Please don't put on shorts.**

NORMAN: **I will ignore that. Follow me!** *(They walk to an area at the edge of the park that borders the church and Norman opens the door to an old shed)* **[60]** *[SFX-tool shed (opt.)]*

MORGAN: **The church tool shed?** *(sarcastically)* **Fascinating . . .**

FINN: *(doting)* **If the great Norman has a plan, the great Norman has a plan!**

NORMAN: **You have to promise not to tell anyone it's still here.** *(he pulls a tarp off of a pile of scraps that is labeled "H/O-2000")* **The H/O-2000 Temporal Displacement Modulator!**

[DVD 2] **[7]** *(SFX-Junk)*

MORGAN: *(mockingly)* **A pile of garbage . . . I am impressed.**

NORMAN: **This** *(uses hands to illustrate air quotes)* **"pile of garbage" has traveled through time! Tell them, Ava!**

AVA: **Well, I wasn't there with him, but my brother has told me some great stories about the adventures he's had in this contraption.**

FINN: *(excited)* I don't know the stories! Tell us, Norman!

NORMAN: This machine was created by Henry Olson—

FINN: *(interrupts)* The pastor??

NORMAN: Well, he wasn't the pastor then . . . never mind.

MORGAN: *(interrupting with disbelief)* The church pastor created a time machine? *(sarcastic)* That sounds logical.

NORMAN: Well, he did. And, I actually used it to travel through time!



FINN: WHAT? This is amazing! What are we waiting for? Let's fire it up!

NORMAN: The last time I used it, I completely used up its power source: a rare Iridium isotope. But I never got it to work accurately anyway. It would never take us to the correct time.

MORGAN: Convenient. It just *(uses hands makes air quotes)* “happens” to be out of power.

NORMAN: Okay . . . you've seen it. *(excited)* It's time to go back to the Final Bible Challenge. *(Faces front dramatically and quotes the tagline)* “More than just a Bible challenge . . . A QUEST OF CHAMPIONS.” Come on! *(He walks away and Finn follows close behind.)*

AVA: On our way! Come on, Morgan. *(Morgan ignores her and steps into the machine)* Morgan? *(Ava playfully steps into the machine and grabs her hand)*

MORGAN: There's no way this pile of junk could ever—  SFX—*Machine Whirring (machine whirrs and sputters).* Whoa! What was that!? *(Both girls jump out and the machine slows and stops)*

AVA: *(yelling)* Norman! Come quick!



FINN: *(running up, ever the gentleman)* Do you fine ladies need some assistance?

NORMAN: *(out of breath)* What's the matter? Does someone need a doctor?

AVA: The machine made a sound!

MORGAN: *(a bit shaken)* **Your weirdo pile of scraps turned itself on!**

NORMAN: **Impossible!** *(stepping to the machine, followed by Finn. Nothing happens)* **Your imagination was playing tricks on you.**

MORGAN: *(walking in to look with Ava)* **Well, that's ridiculous because I don't have an imagination.**   *SFX-Time Machine 1 (Machine suddenly turns on again).*

NORMAN: **I know that sound! How is this possible?! It's happening again. HOLD ON, EVERYBODY!** *(Lights flicker and go out)*

SCENE 2

59 [SFX—park atmosphere (opt.)] (*Lights come up on the park. A sign says "Vacation Bible School 1985"*)

MORGAN: **That was seriously weird.**

AVA: **That was seriously FUN!** (*both girls step out of machine*)

WHITNEY: (*walking past with a friend, speaking with a Valley-girl accent*) **And I was like "totally tubular," and she was like, "no way," and I was like, "Dude, you did not just say that!" And I was like, "I'm so sure!"**

'80s DUDE: **Dude! That's gnarly.**

FINN: (*smiling*) **Classic 1980s vernacular. I can't believe it! Your time machine works, Norman! We traveled to the ancient time of the 1980s!**

NORMAN: **This can't be happening. There's no Iridium left in the power supply. How could it have worked?!**

FINN: **I don't know, but the display here** (*pointing at machine*) **says 1985! Let's go out and explore.** (*stepping out to join the girls*)

NORMAN: **We'd better not.** (*Finn quickly steps back in*) **The machine is too unreliable, plus I'm in charge of getting you all back safely. Let me program it back to the present.** (*punching in a date**) **There . . . girls, get back in the machine** (*Morgan and Whitney step back in the machine*) **and hold on, everyooooooooone!!** (*He *flips several switches but nothing happens*)

FINN: **Was something supposed to happen?**

WHITNEY: **You girls, like, want to join, like, our VBS group? It's like totally rad!**

'80s DUDE: **Totally righteous, dudes!**

AVA: **Sure!** (*walking over to join the group*)

MORGAN: **Eh . . .** (*not especially interested but not opposed either*)

NORMAN: (**pounding on the dashboard*) **Why isn't the machine working? This makes no sense!**

*"punching in date," "flipping switches," "and "pounding on keyboard" SFXs are available on Disc 2 of the Accompaniment DVD.

WHITNEY: We've been learning this week that, like, one of the great mysteries of the faith is, like, *(music begins to [DVD 5] [10] "Walkin' by Faith")* that our life as a Christian is not just, like, imitating Christ, but, like, the indwelling of Christ.

'80s DUDE: And that's EXCELLENT! That means that Christ actually, like, lives in us! Galatians 2:20 says, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."

[59] *[SFX-park atmosphere (opt.)]*

FINN: Any luck with the machine?

NORMAN: I'm afraid not. Now we're stuck in 1985, and my group won't make it to the final Bible Challenge! *(dramatically faces front and starts to quote the tagline until he is cut off)* "More than just a—"

MORGAN: Okay, buddy. "The champion, the quest . . ." We got it.

AVA: *(introducing outrageously-dressed girl to Norman)* Norman, this is Whitney. She just gave me a gift; it's called a . . . "scrinchy."

WHITNEY: That's "scrunchy." Like, it's, like, for your hair. Like, you've never used a scrunchy??

AVA: It's big. It's puffy. I like it!!

MORGAN: *(not unkindly)* You would. But I gotta say, this is slightly more fun than sitting at that boring VBS. *(Turning her attention to Norman)* How do you control that contraption, anyway? *(She walks into H/O-2000 with Norman)*

NORMAN: If it was working perfectly, I would just punch in the day and year I want to go here, in the time destination module, see? May 11, 2015 *(or insert current date)*. Then I would push this lever and . . . *(clicking sound)* It *still* won't turn on.

AVA: *(walking into the machine)* Let's just stay here for awhile, then. I want to get my hair done like yours, Whitney. Super retro!

WHITNEY: *(walking in the machine with her)* I could, like, totally give you, like, the raddest home perm, Ava.

AVA: Cool! (*[DVD 6] [15] SFX-Time Machine and 1920s Background*)

NORMAN: It's working again! Get in and hold on, everyone!
(lights out)

SCENE 3

(Lights come up on the park. Sign says "Vacation Bible School 1928")
(  1920s SFX Background noise continues from previous scene)

FINN: **The machine worked! We made it back!**

NORMAN: **Look again. If I were to guess, I'd say we're...sometime in the 1920s!**

WHITNEY: *(stepping out from behind the group)* **The 1920s? Totally tubular!!**

NORMAN: *(panicked)* **AAAH! Whitney came with us in the time machine?!**

WHITNEY: *(hyperventilating)* **Time machine? Like, wow, like, I don't even, like, know what to, like, . . . whoo . . . I'm, like, wiggling out! That's, like, totally impossible, like, to the max!**

MORGAN: *(coming alongside)* **Okay, girl, you're gonna be fine.**

AVA: **She's right; we are going to have so much fun! And look, I'm wearing the scrinchy!**

WHITNEY: *(politely correcting her although she's hyperventilating)* **Scrunchy.**



C.W.: *(approaching the group)* **You folks want to join our Bible Celebration? It's really the cat's meow!**

MORGAN: **I'm actually allergic to cats.**

FINN: **Not *real* cats, Morgan. This dapper dude is using an expression; it means "it's really great!"**

C.W.: **Not only are we doing a food drive for the needy today, my family is also starting construction on a park here. We will be planting a prayer garden and putting up a huge cross for people to enjoy. Want to join us in the celebration?**

FINN: **I sure would!**

C.W.: **In Matthew 16:24, Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross *(music begins to*   "No Matter the Cost") and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it."**



C.W.: *(during "No Matter the Cost", meas. 41)* I want you all to know we have raised enough money to complete construction on the park and prayer garden! *(all cheer)*

AVA: *(walks up wearing a flapper hat)* That's just the bee's knees.

MORGAN: *(incredulously)* You really fit in everywhere, don't you?

AVA: *(with a 1920s attitude)* And how!

(music continues)

(  SFX-1920s Background Noise 2)

NORMAN: Finn, will you help me try to figure out what's buggy about the machine? It's weird how it's stopping and starting without any power.

FINN: Sure thing, boss. *(getting into the machine and tinkering with it)*

C.W.: I'm thankful for our new friends here. I hope you all stay and join us for the food drive.

MORGAN: *(sarcastically)* That's a "brilliant" idea—wasting time giving to other people. Real smart, little guy . . .

C.W.: I believe it IS really smart. God will take care of me! In fact, I'm using a large inheritance from my grandpa to help fund the construction on the park and prayer garden today. It is my joy to give away the blessings I have received!

AVA: That's amazing! We are so happy to have met you!

MORGAN: *(taking him aside)* Buddy, I have some "inside" information about the future. A lot of bad things are going to happen. You're gonna wanna look out for yourself; no one else is going to do that for you.

C.W.: *(confused)* Really? Oh, I hadn't thought of that . . . wait, how do you know what's going to happen in the future?

AVA: *(whispering)* Morgan, I don't know much about time travel, but I don't think you're supposed to change anything or give anything away about future events!

WHITNEY: That's, like, totally true! Like, I just saw, like, the most tubular movie in the theater last week . . . that's, like, totally what Doc Brown said.



C.W.: **Doc who?**

MORGAN: **Never mind. Bottom line, you'd be better off hanging onto your money. And I have some investment tips that will really help you in the future: Apple, Google, Starb—**

WHITNEY: *(interrupting excitedly)* **Betamax! You should like, totally invest your money in Betamax. Like, fer sure!**

'20s KID: *(coming up with box)* **Hey C.W., where do we put the boxes for the food drive?**

C.W.: *(clearly deeply in thought)* **Uh, over there by the cross. Or, uh . . . you can put them anywhere. I . . . uh . . . need to go . . . to the bank.**
(he leaves)

MORGAN: **C.W. —that's a really odd name.** *(Ava and Whitney get into machine)*
(  SFX-Time Machine 2)

AVA: **Come on, Morgan...the machine turned on! Hurry!** *(All climb in the machine) (Lights out)*

SCENE 4

61 [SFX--surf atmosphere (opt.)] (Lights come up. Sign says "Street Outreach 1966")

AVA: Looks like the controls still aren't working right. This isn't our park!

FINN: It most certainly isn't. This place doesn't look so good!

WHITNEY: Like, that sign says, like, "1966." Like, maybe 1966 wasn't like, a good year for parks.

MORGAN: But is any year a good year for a park? I'm just sayin'.

AVA: Where's the prayer garden? And the cross?

FINN: I don't see a prayer garden. (music begins to **DVD 10** **25** "God's Grace") Maybe there's a cross behind that surfboard . . . curious.

ANNETTE: What's happenin'!? Welcome to our Summer Bible School! We've been learning about how God's Spirit displays His grace in our lives once we surrender to Him!

BEACH KID 1: Groovy!

BEACH KID 2: Far out!

BEACH KIDS: Lay it on me!

(God's Grace" ends)

61 [SFX--surf atmosphere (opt.)]

ANNETTE: What a gas! We're fleecin' the scene to hang ten! Want to come? Be there or be square!

NORMAN: Thank you for your kind offer, but we need to get going.

ANNETTE: I'm hip! Bye!

NORMAN: Finn, I've been doing a bit of research. Have you noticed that the machine only turns on when Ava steps into it?

FINN: **I had not.**

NORMAN: **Of course . . . that made no sense at all until I remembered what she's wearing!**

FINN: *(confused)* **She's wearing . . . Iridium?**

NORMAN: **Not exactly . . .**



FINN: *(realizing)* **She's wearing the cross from the awards ceremony, which could be made of platinum which is—**

NORMAN: *(finishes thought)* **. . . a member of the Iridium family! Ava is controlling the machine! All we need is to have her get into the machine, and it will turn on! Now, whether it will actually take us to the correct date is negligible, but still . . . progress!**

FINN: **Ava, Morgan, come here!**

AVA: *(modeling a piece of '60s clothing)* **Do I look groovy?**

FINN: **Norman figured out how to turn on the machine!**

AVA: *(stepping in machine and it whirrs to life)* **Far out, man!**
 11  30 *SFX—Time Machine 3 and Future Effects)*



NORMAN: **Wait! Don't get in yet! Now the machine has started! It's YOU, Ava!**

AVA: **Me?**

FINN: **Hurry! Everybody in!** *(There is a scuffle and Whitney falls against the machine controls as Morgan jumps in the machine at last minute)*

ALL 5 KIDS: **Ouch! Ooof! Watch the control panel! Don't sit on the—** *(blackout)*

SCENE 5

(Lights come up on a dimly lit parking lot in the year 2060. There is a patch of grass, but no cross or prayer garden.) (  *SFX—Future Sound Effects continue from previous scene*)

WHITNEY: Sorry, I think I, like, totally sat on, like, the buttons that, like, control, like, the date.

FINN: Whoa! Are those . . . flying cars above us?! We made it to the future!

WHITNEY
& AVA: Totally rad!!! *(giving each other a high five)*

NORMAN: But . . . where's the park? The calibration in the machine must have gotten bumped. *(walking up to a passerby)* Excuse me, where is Worthington Park?

TETRA: Worthington Park? Sorry . . . never heard of it. The nearest park is 20 miles away.

ALL 5 KIDS: What?!

NORMAN: This isn't right; something is different! Did anyone change anything in the last time period?

ALL: No, I don't think so, etc.

FINN: The park didn't look so hot in 1966 either, come to think of it.

NORMAN: That's true. Something must have happened before that . . . in the 1920s!? Did anyone do anything in the '20s?

FINN: I got a new bowtie . . .

AVA: Very snazzy, Finn.

FINN: Why, thank you!

OLD NORMAN: *(walking over to them)* Hello, there. I'm Norman. We're about to start our Street Outreach. Would you children like to join us?

MORGAN: *(chuckling, after realization)* Your name is Norman? Oh, . . . this is going to be fun. *(loudly, stirring up excitement)* Norman?

OLD NORMAN/

NORMAN: *(answering at same time)* **Yes?**

MORGAN: *(smugly)* **Booyah!**

OLD NORMAN/

NORMAN: *(seeing each other)* **You're Norman? I'm Norman! AUGH!** *(both run comically in opposite directions, adjusting their bow ties at the same time. Turning to face the situation, continue to awkwardly circle the other)*

OLD NORMAN: *(overlapping at same time)* **How could this be?**

NORMAN: *(overlapping at same time)* **You're so old!**

OLD NORMAN: **You're so young! This is impossible!**

NORMAN: **It's not impossible. We used the H/O-2000, the time machine, to travel here.**

OLD NORMAN: **TERRIBLE TUNAFISH! I never even used the time machine! My neighbor invented it, but he gave it to me before he moved because it never worked. I destroyed it years ago.**

FINN: **That's impossible! Pastor Henry Olson invented it and stored it at Midway Community Church. We just found it in the park next to the church.**

OLD NORMAN: **Church? There's no church here. We are part of a street missions team from the next county.**

WHITNEY: **No church? That's, like, totally bogus, dude.**

NORMAN: **No church? Midway Community Church has been doing Vacation Bible Schools in this park for over 70 years! Something terrible must have happened to disrupt the space-time continuum!**

OLD NORMAN: **TERRIBLE TUNAFISH! What are we going to do?**

NORMAN: **First we need to figure out what went wrong. Finn? Old Norman?**

OLD NORMAN: **I prefer "Classic" Norman.**

NORMAN: **Indeed. Let's put our heads together.**

TETRA: **If you all would like to join our street team, we are reaching out to this unchurched community.**

AVA &
WHITNEY:

Sure!

TETRA:

(light show starts as music begins to [DVD 12] [31] "Fix Our Eyes")
Hebrews 12:2 says, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

("Fix Our Eyes" ends)

MORGAN:

([DVD 13] [35] SFX-Future Effects) **Ava, what did they mean, "The problems of the world will fade away?" That doesn't make sense; just ignoring problems won't make them go away.**

AVA:

Actually, Morgan, the Bible says when we fix, or focus, our eyes on Jesus and what he accomplished at the cross, the things we worry about in this world won't matter. Jesus conquered sin and death and we are victorious through Him. We just need to keep our eyes on Him!

MORGAN:

(considering) **Hmm, I was just...curious. Everyone seems really serious about the cross.**

AVA:

(smiling) **The cross changed everything, Morgan. *(hugging her)* I'm praying for you.**

MORGAN:

(softening) **Uh, well . . . thanks.**

NORMAN:

Sorry to interrupt—all we need to do is go back to the 1920s and fix whatever happened to disrupt the timeline and create this alternate future.

WHITNEY:

I'm, like, totally, like, not afraid to say that I, like, have, like, no idea, like, what you're talking about . . . like.

FINN:

It's an alternate timeline. Whatever we changed in the past had a ripple effect that changed all the following events and created a different version of the past, present, and future here in Midway City.

NORMAN:

(wondering) **What could have happened?**

MORGAN:

(volunteering) **I talked to that C.W. guy in the '20s. We had a chat. . . . Strange dude.**

NORMAN: C.W.? As in C.W. Worthington? He is the one who raised the funds to build the prayer garden and cross in this park!



FINN: Didn't he actually help to build Midway Community Church, too?! *(turning to Morgan)* What did you say to him, Morgan?

MORGAN: *(reacting sheepishly)* Well . . . I . . . uh, just told him he should stop giving all his money away and to save it for himself.

AVA: And that's why in this version of the future, this area has never had a prayer garden OR a church!!!

ALL: *(reacting)* Oh, no! That's terrible! What do we do?

NORMAN: *(entering machine)* This is a disaster! If we can't fix this, hundreds of thousands of people's lives will be affected. Midway Community Church didn't ever exist in this timeline! We have to go back to fix what happened. Come on, machine . . . 1923! Let's go, Ava! *(Ava climbs in the machine)*

FINN: ( 14  SFX-Time Machine 4) Get in, everyone! *(all scramble to enter machine)* *(Blackout)*

SCENE 6

62 [SFX-1800s atmosphere (opt.)] (Lights come up. Sign says "Jubilee Festival 1870")

MORGAN: (sighs) **Big surprise . . . not 1923.**

WHITNEY: **Wow! It's, like, the wild, wild west!**

AVA: **They are definitely rootin' and tootin' here!**

(music begins to DVD 15 37 "Alive")

ROSE: **I'd like to start off our festivities by welcoming you all to the Jubilee Festival of 1870. We are all so thankful to Mr. Daniel Worthington for allowing us to celebrate on his new land! Thanks be to our God!**

(*"Alive" ends*)

62 (SFX-1800s atmosphere)

ROSE: **Now, Mr. Daniel Worthington will lead us in a prayer of thanks for the dessert we are about to receive.**

DANIEL: (bowing head) **"Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for Your provision and for Your Son. We thank Thee for our new friends, and ask Your blessing on this land. In the Name of Jesus, Amen."**

ROSE: **Thank you, Daniel. Before we eat, I'd like to lead us in a song that was just written: "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross."*** (she sings, accompanied by a banjo)

62 (SFX-1800s atmosphere)

MORGAN: (softly) **These people have so little, but they seem so happy. Is it because of the cross?**

AVA: **Yes. It all has to do with Jesus.**

NORMAN: **Rose, thank you so much for having us at this lovely event. But we have an urgent matter to attend to in the past, I mean, in the future.**

ROSE: **Well . . . have some of my gooseberry pie before you go, won't you?**

FINN: **Sounds great!**

AVA: Norman, why in the world do you think that *I* am turning on the machine?

NORMAN: It's your necklace! It's basically powering the machine! I just need to make some adjustments so that the machine will go where we tell it to go.

FINN: We need to get back to 1923 right away. Morgan will talk to C.W. and fix this mess. Then everything will be fine, and the timeline will return to normal.



MORGAN: Oh, *she will, will she?* What if I don't *want* to talk to C.W.? He can make his own choices. In fact, maybe it should be *my* turn to wear the necklace and take this machine for a spin!

AVA: Morgan, be serious. We have to make things right!

[the following three lines overlap]

MORGAN: *(playfully trying to get the necklace)* Just let me wear it for a minute!

NORMAN: We don't have time for this, Morgan! We have to fix the timeline!

(  SFX—Time Machine 5 *[with Alarm]*)

FINN: *(trying to save the day)* Morgan, stop fooling around! Here . . . let me help. *(jumping up to try to stop Morgan from grabbing the necklace)*

NORMAN: Everyone, stop pushing on the—

AVA: **WATCH OUT!** *(others rush into the machine to try to help as it is pushed to its limit)*

NORMAN: Be careful! We're pushing the lever too far! *(blackout)*

SCENE 7

(Lights come up on a beautiful garden [Gethsemane]. An older child dressed as Jesus is kneeling and praying by a tree. His head is down and his face cannot be seen).

63 *(SFX—Gethsemane, crickets)*

AVA: *(in a quiet tone)* Look . . . He's praying.

FINN: Morgan, we're in the Garden of Gethsemane.

MORGAN: The . . . we are? Then, that's really—

AVA: *(in hushed awe)* Jesus.

MORGAN: He looks . . . so alone.

NORMAN: He was. The Bible says that even though He asked His friends to stay and pray with Him, they fell asleep and left Him alone.

AVA: You guys . . . this is right before He went to die on the cross for us.

MORGAN: I never thought about that story being real. I . . . I don't have what you all have. I know the stories about Christ, *(music begins to* **DVD 18** **43** *"2000 Years")* but I don't *know* Him like you all seem to . . . I really *want* to know Him. Will you help me?

AVA: I thought you'd never ask. Let's pray. *(they walk to the side of the stage, opposite Jesus, and pray together silently. After the first solo in the song, the spotlight goes off Jesus.)*

(A silhouette of a cross is projected on the screen or back wall, and the children all kneel at the cross.)

(“2000 Years” ends)

MORGAN: I think we need to go back to 1923. There's someone I need to talk to . . . *(song ends)*

NORMAN: YES! Let's go back and see if we can fix the timeline!

FINN: Let's go! *(everyone climbs in the machine)* (**DVD 19** **48** *SFX—Time Machine 6 and 1920s Background Noise*) *(blackout)*

(Lights come up on 1923, where C.W. is by himself in the area that would have become the prayer garden. The cross is down and he is boxing things up to leave.)

MORGAN: C.W. — wait! Remember me? I'm afraid I owe you an apology.

C.W.: Of course, I remember you. We just talked a minute ago.

MORGAN: *(realizing)* Right.

C.W.: You don't owe me anything. I appreciate your honesty. You saved me from making a *big* mistake!

MORGAN: Where's the cross?

C.W.: Oh, I just took it down. You made me realize there are better ways to use this land than just for a silly prayer garden.

MORGAN: No . . . it was *me* that made the mistake. This prayer garden will touch so many lives. You were right to want to give to others. God doesn't want us just to think of ourselves. In fact, He gave us His Son as the biggest sacrifice! And, He did it for me *and* for you. This cross reminds us of that gift, and that we can actually know the living Christ!

FINN: *(interrupting)* Plus, you're going to help start a church when you grow up!

C.W.: A church? Hmm...that's a great idea! *(smiling)* But let's start with this cross. *(together C.W. and Morgan raise it back up)*

AVA: *(smiling)* That's where we should always start.

NORMAN: We'd better get back, everyone.



MORGAN: Bye, C.W.! May God bless you.

(C.W. exits)

WHITNEY: That was, like, so, like, totally righteous!

NORMAN: Everyone, hop in. We'll take Whitney home. *(all climb into the time machine)*

AVA: I'm glad you accidentally got stuck with us, Whitney!

WHITNEY: Like, this was, like, the most excellent adventure! Like, Whitney and Ava's Excellent Adventure . . . (  SFX-Time Machine 7) *(blackout)*

SCENE 8

(Lights come up on beautiful C.W. Worthington Park VBS—present day. The group has already returned Whitney to 1985 and Morgan is wearing a gaudy 1980s-style hair bow or scrunchy as well as holding another fluorescent souvenir).

(59) *(SFX—park atmosphere)*

NORMAN: **Now that Whitney is safely home, let's hope everything is back to normal here.**


AVA: **I see Whitney gave you a scrunchy, Morgan. It's big. It's puffy. I like it!!**

MS. MADDIE

MAY: **. . . and thank you to Midway Community Church and Pastor Henry Olson for sponsoring our Vacation Bible School here in the beautiful C.W. Worthington Park. Let's begin our closing ceremonies.**

NORMAN: **The Bible Challenge! Yes! *(all cheer)***

ALL FOUR: *(dramatically face front and quote the tagline)* **"More than just a Bible challenge . . . A QUEST OF CHAMPIONS."**

MORGAN: **Let's do this! *(music begins to***  **(50)** *"Finale")*