

The Gospel Train

Written by Sarah Mather, Wakkanai Baptist Bible Church

Cast:

Girl (whatever name you wish)

Sock Man (sock puppet)

Person at Ticket Counter

Train Announcer (voice only)

Angel (voice only)

Bible Storyteller

Behind the scenes personnel: At least two or three people (for doing lighting, soundtrack, prop changing, and (optional) spotlights)

Scene 1: The Station of Sin, Bethlehem, and Jesus Birth

Opening: Girl and Sock Man enter stage, talking while walking.

Girl: You know, Sock Man, yesterday I cheated on a test at school... And now my heart feels just awful.

Sock Man: Yesterday, I got mad at my mom and said "I hate you!" She almost cried... And I told lots of lies to my friends.

Girl: (sigh) I wonder how I can make my heart stop hurting...

Sock Man: I wonder if God could forgive us...

Sarah: We've got such dirty hearts. (pauses briefly) Do you think we will be able to go heaven someday?

Sock Man: Probably not. (sigh) (arrive at station) Hey look! We're at the Station of Sin!

Girl: (looking at the (invisible) destinations board) Asahikawa Station, Sapporo Station....

Sock Man: ...Heaven Station..... Wait, what??

Girl: Heaven Station?!?

Sock Man: Is there really a train that goes to Heaven??

Girl: I bet only really GOOD people can ride on that!

Sock Man: (disappointedly) Then I guess we can't.

Ticket Counter Person: Well actually, anyone can ride it.

Sock Man: Anyone?!?

Girl: Well, the ticket must be super expensive then!

Sock man: Yeah, like a million dollars or something!!

Ticket Counter Person: No, actually you don't even need a ticket to ride this train.

Sock Man: What!?!?

Girl: Really?!?

Ticket Counter Person: Yes, really! Jesus has already paid for the tickets; you can ride anytime you like.

Girl: Let's ride it then!!

Sock Man: Yeah, let's go!!

Train Announcer: All aboard! The train bound for Heaven will soon be leaving the station.

Girl: (slowly reads name plate on train) "Gospel Train" Hmm... I wonder what Gospel means?

Sock Man: I wonder who Jesus is?

Ticket Counter Person: Gospel means "good news"! And Jesus is the Son of God. (Takes out a book) Here. (hands a Bible over the ticket counter to the girl) Please read this. It is a letter from God. If you read it and believe it, it will show you the way to Heaven. And, by the way, this train stops at several stations, where you will get to know all about Jesus. Well, you'd better be off, then! You don't want to be left behind!

Girl: We're off, then! Thank you, and Good bye!

Sock Man: Goodbye!

(They head towards the train cab)

Girl: Hey! Where's the conductor?

Sock Man: Hmm...(thinks for a second) Well, I don't know. But I'm gonna ride in the front!

Girl: Well...(hesitates, but then quickly shrugs shoulders and gives in) Oh alright. Me too!

(train sounds of leaving the station)

Stockman: (mimics train whistle) Choo-choo!!!!

Girl: We're on our way!!

(sing "The Gospel Train")

*Oh, I'm trav'ling on the "hallelujah line," / On the good old gospel train,
I am on the right track, and never will go back / To the station of sin again.
I need no fare, I'm riding on a "pass," / 'Tis the blood for sinners slain;
I am trav'ling on the "hallelujah line," / On the good old gospel train.*

(music ends and transitions to a background "chug-chug" train sound)

Announcer "The next stop is Bethlehem."

Girl: "Let's read this letter! (Sock Man nods his head) (Girl reads aloud) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was without form and void... "

(Night falls. Turn off the lights to darken the room)

Announcer "We are now approaching Bethlehem Station."

Girl: "Hey, there's something written here about the city of Bethlehem!" (Reads Mikah 5: 2 and 4) "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting. And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth."

Enter: beautiful "heavenly" music

Sock Man: "Sounds like angels!...."

Girl: "It's so beautiful!"

Voice of the Angel: (reads Luke 2: 10-12) "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Sock Man: "It really was angels!!!"

Girl: (points to the distance straight ahead) "Look, a star suddenly appeared over there!"

Man "Where?! (Finds it.) Oh, I see it, too. It IS a star!"

Jesus' Birth (Picture-story)

{End Scene 1}

Scene 2: The Sea of Galilee & Jesus' Miracle

Opening: It is the next morning. Girl and Sock Man rode the train through the night, and are now waking up. ("chug-chug" background noise.)

Sock Man: "Ahhh...(yawns). It's morning."
Girl: "Jesus' birth was amazing, wasn't it?!"
Sock Man: (nods in agreement) "Hey! I wonder where's next?"

(train whistle sounds)
Announcer: "The next station is The Sea of Galilee"
(Play a little music in the back (optional))
Sock Man: "I wonder what that baby Jesus will do when he grows up?"
Girl: (distracted by the view) Oh, I can see the lake!"
Sock Man: "Hey yeah, me too!"
Announcer: "Now approaching The Sea of Galilee Station."
(The train slows to a stop and the sound of a strong wind enters)
Sock Man "Wow, what a storm!"
Girl: "The wind is so strong, and just look at those high waves on the lake!"
Sock Man: (looking out straight ahead into the distance) Hey! There's a boat out there!"
Girl: "It must be terrible for those people on board!"
Sock Man: "Hey, someone's walking on the water!"
Girl: "Yeah, it looks like he is trying to get to the boat. Who is that person?! ... Oh, and now someone is going out of the boat to meet the other person out on the water!" (Shouts toward the boat) "It's too dangerous!!"
Sock Man: "He's sinking! (Shouts toward the boat) "A little more! You can make it!"
Girl: "Oh, good! They reached the boat safely!"
Sock Man: "Whew!"
(Suddenly the sound of the wind subsides.) (Dead silence.)
(they look at each other with surprise)
Sock Man: (whispering) "It stopped! ..."
Girl: "The waves have calmed down ...you wouldn't be able to tell that there was a storm up until just now."
Sock Man: "The first person who was walking on the water must have done it! After all, if he can walk on the water...?"
Girl: "What kind of man is this? That even the wind and the waves obey him!?"
Sock Man: "Let's look in the Bible!"
(girl begins searching the Bible)
Girl: That man.....(stops and looks up from reading) Is JESUS." (Sock Man reacts with shocked face)

Jesus' Miracle on Galilee (picture-story) (account from Matthew Chapter 14)
{End Scene 2}

Scene 3: Calvary Station & the Death of Jesus

Opening: The Girl and Sock Man are riding the train.

Sock Man: "I wonder where the next station will be? Do you think Jesus will do a miracle again?"
Announcer: "The next station up is Calvary."
Girl: (reading the Bible about various things about Jesus) "This Jesus is amazing! He healed people's sicknesses, taught people about God, and did so many miracles."
Sock Man: "Jesus sure did a lot of amazing things."
Girl: (slowly & thoughtfully) "Jesus is really kind, isn't He... He helped Peter and everyone.... and He even bought us our train tickets."
Sock Man: (nods) "Yeah."

Girl: "Do you suppose Jesus really is the son of God? When he talks about God, he calls God his Father." He said: 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me.'"

Sock Man: "Jesus said, 'I and my Father are one.' Didn't he."

Girl: "If that's really true, does that mean Jesus is God?"

Sock Man: "Who knows?"

Announcer: "We are now approaching Calvary Station."

Sock Man: "What time is it now?"

Girl: "I think it's about three o'clock."

(Darken the room at once.)

(squealing brakes sound as the train grinds to a halt)

(Girl screams)

Sock Man: "I'm scared!!!"

Girl: (trembling) "It's like the light of the world suddenly went out..."

(Light returns slowly)

Girl: "Oh, it's finally getting light again. I'm so glad!!"

Sock Man: "I thought it was the end of the world!!!"

Girl: "Oh, we must have arrived at Calvary Station. (Looks around, then straight ahead, and points toward the distance) Look at the hill over there. What's on that hill?"

Sock Man: "Looks like crosses. ...Oh, and there are people on the crosses!... Poor things..."

Girl: "It's so painful to watch, but yet somehow I can't take my eyes off of them... Especially the One in the middle."

Sock Man: "Me, too."

Girl: (finally takes eyes off the cross and looks at Sock Man) "Let's read the Bible. I think I might know who is on that cross." (Opens the Bible and starts searching)

The Crucifixion (picture-story)

{End Scene 3}

Scene 4: The Empty Tomb, Jesus' Resurrection, the Salvation Decision, & Heaven Station

Opening: The Girl and Sock Man are boarding the train (or, are already on the train, waiting for it to start again).

Girl: "It's so sad that Jesus died on the cross, even though he didn't do anything wrong..."

Sock Man: "The Bible says Jesus died for the sins of the *whole* world."

Girl: "So then he died for us, too? (realizes) For my cheating...."

Sock Man: "For my lies, too..."

Girl: "Oh, what should I do? ... Jesus died because of me!"

Announcer: "The train will be departing soon. Next stop is Jesus' grave."

Girl: "A grave!?! Ohhhh?!? That's SO sad!..." (starting to cry)

Sock Man: "I'm too scared to go to a grave!"

Girl: (stops crying and sniffls) "Then, do you want to get off the train here?"

Sock Man: (shakes head) "No."

Girl: "Well then, what do you want to do???"

Sock Man: "...I-I want to continue riding."

Girl: (builds up resolve) "Me, too."

(the whistle sounds and the train leaves the station)

Time passes by as the Girl and Sock Man stare off into the distance, in deep thought.

(play music in the background to signal time passing by (optional))

Sock Man: (sigh) "...Isn't it the next station yet?!"

Girl: "I've been thinking about Jesus all this time."

Sock Man: "Yeah, me, too."

Announcer: "Soon we will arrive at Jesus' grave."

Sock Man: "Finally!"

(The train stops, and they get out)

Girl: (looks around) "Where is this?!"

Sock Man: "Hey, this isn't a station!"

Girl: (Suddenly notices a cliff drop-off right in front of the train) "Ah!!!!!!" (Falls backward to the ground frightened, and leans forward to peer over the edge)

Sock Man: (looking at the valley below) "It must be the end of the world ..."

Girl: "The railroad suddenly cuts off..."

Sock Man: "Why is there a cliff here!?!?"

(Girl looks behind, and notices that there is a sign pointing to a tomb.) "That must be Jesus's tomb. ...It looks like a cave!"

(They start approaching the cave)

Sock Man: (stops) "Whoah, wait a second! What if we find a, a b-b-body in it? ... I'm scared!"

Girl: "Oh, come on! Let's go!" (Forcibly pulls Sock Man with her)

(They peer into the cave)

Sock Man: "Hey, there's no one in here!?"

Girl: "Yeah, there's no one in here! ...Wait a second. So, if this is Jesus' grave, but it's *empty*..."

Sock Man: "Do you think...?"

Girl: "I think so!"

Sock Man: "The Bible!!" (They run back to the train)

Girl: (frantically searches through Bible) "Hey, Listen to this! I found the story! It looks like three days after Jesus died, some friends of Jesus came to his grave. But they only found an empty grave, just like we did. And then two angels came, and said, 'Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'" (Girl lifts up her eyes from the Bible, and gazes ahead, with eyes shining, full of hope.) "Jesus didn't stay dead... He rose again!?"

Sock Man: "Jesus is still alive!"

Girl: "I now believe that Jesus is really God!! I believe that Jesus died on the cross for me and rose from the dead!"

Sock Man: "Me, too!"

Girl: (looking heaven-ward) "Thank you, God, for what Jesus did for me! Please clean my dirty heart and forgive me! ...Thank you!")

(Sock Man looking down, wonders aloud to himself while the girl freezes in place) "I want a clean heart, too, but will Jesus really forgive me? I don't know if I can obey God well enough from now on. Even if I try my best, what if that's not good enough?...?" (Sock Man's thinking gets interrupted)

Girl: (unfreezes) "Hey, I see a wonderful city is shining on the other side of this valley! Let's get back on the train!"

Sock Man: "No way! It's impossible for a train to get over this valley!!"

Girl: "No, it isn't! If Jesus bought the tickets for this train for us, then we should be able to make it *all* the way to Heaven! I'm sure we'll cross this valley on an invisible bridge or something! (with joyful determination) And I'm gonna ride it—just trusting in Jesus!"

Sock Man: (Girl freezes again, and Sock Man consults with himself) "Trusting in Jesus ... Hmm. I know I can't cross this deep valley by myself... Jesus gave up his life and bought that ticket for me, didn't he... But he is still alive, so that means he **MUST** have the power of God... (light bulb moment) Oh, I see! Jesus can help me completely! All I have to do is just ride the train! (Turns heaven-ward) God, I trust in Jesus! No matter how hard I try, I can't clean my own heart. I can't go to heaven. Please clean this ol' Sock Man's heart. Forgive all my sin and let me go to heaven because of what Jesus did! Oh, Thank you, thank you!!!! Wow, I'm so excited, I can't wait!"

Girl: (unfreezes) "You're coming, too, Sock Man, right?"

Sock Man: (exuberantly) "Of course! Let's go!"

Girl: (with happy determination) "We're gonna ride the Gospel train!"

Announcer: "The next station is our final destination—Heaven Station!"

(While music plays, the Gospel train flies over the valley, the Girl and Stockman exclaim with joy and point at things as they cross over the valley to the other side, where awaits Heaven.)

Girl: "Wow! The train is flying!"

Sock Man: "WE are flying!! To that shining city!!"

Announcer: "Now approaching Heaven Station!"

(whistle sounds, and sounds of the train coming to a halt)

Arrival at Heaven.

Girl and Sock Man: "Wow...Heaven!!" "Oh look!" (they look at each other with surprised and happy faces, and then look straight ahead again and call out) "Jesus!!" (wave hands)

{End Scene 4}

(for the finale, hand out song books to the children and have them sing "The Gospel Train" together with the entire cast)

{The End}

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