

# From One to Many

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By Terry Vik

## **This illustration requires the following props:**

- *Manger*
- *Six spools of red ribbon (or similar concept)*
- *2 Microphones – one for the narrator, one for the testifiers.*

## **Personnel:**

- *Narrator (This can be pastor if desired, not required)*
- *Six testifiers (one per ribbon, any age or sex)*
- *Male to play adult Jesus (one line to speak)*

## **Staging:**

*The narrator is on platform either left or right. This person has a music stand or small pulpit to hold his/her script. The testifiers are on the front row. Jesus is off stage unseen. The manger is Center Stage. The ribbons are loosely piled in the manger with easy access to one end. A microphone is on a stand in front of the manger. (see addendum)*

Narrator: In the book of First John we are told that God is Love. In his gospel John also told us that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son so that we may have everlasting life.

The Jewish nation and religious organizations were looking for a Messiah/King. A messiah who would immediately restore the kingdom and bring peace on earth through political and social changes.

But that was not God's plan. Oh, yes, He will return one day and establish a New Jerusalem and a New Earth, but these wonderful and eternal places will be occupied by people with changed hearts, minds and souls.

Jesus said in the book of Mark – "Repent ye, and believe the Gospel." Those two concepts – repentance and belief – go hand in hand. You cannot have one without the other.

***The narrator now asks for the first testifier to step come to the platform.***

Bro/Sis \_\_\_\_\_ please come forward and take a ribbon.

***The testifier reaches into the manger and takes one end of one ribbon and moves to the microphone. Narrator speaks while this is happening.***

Narrator Paul tells us in the book of Romans that to believe we must hear and to hear we must have a preacher. In the Greek this word means someone who will not only declare,

but to show the glad tidings. Bro/Sis \_\_\_\_\_ , who declared the gospel to you?

*The testifier gives a brief (30-45 second) account of who brought them to the church. This may simply be “Bro. \_\_\_\_\_ offered a bible study to my wife and me 13 years ago. From there we came to church and here I am now.” Each testimony should be about someone OTHER THAN THE PASTOR. Also, the testimony should be about someone who is currently in building during the presentation.*

*The testifier then takes the ribbon and walks to that person who brought them into the church and hands them the ribbon. The testifier sits next to that person AND ALSO HOLDS ON TO THE RIBBON.*

*This means the ribbons must be long enough to stretch from the manger to someone in the congregation without coming out of the manger. One alternative is to ask the person who was testified about to come to the front and sit in the front row. The testifier sits with them. If you do this be sure to spread the testifiers across the front, three to a side.*

Narrator            We often hear that the Gospel or the ‘Good News’ is about the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Yes, it is that, but it is more, much more. Our Lord desires us to look inward, not just outward. To see peace within our soul today, not just peace in eternity in some future day. The Jews look for a changed world. Jesus wants us to desire a changed heart.

Bro/Sis \_\_\_\_\_ please come forward and take a ribbon.

*2<sup>nd</sup> testifier comes and does as the first testifier – speaks and takes ribbon to the congregation.*

*In some cases the person who brought a testifier into the church may not be there. They may have passed away or in another town. The testimony may be about someone currently in the church who is mentoring them or is strength to them in times of trouble.*

*For example: “Sis. \_\_\_\_\_ I want to thank you for the many, many times I called you and you listened to me. You have lifted me up and helped so many times. I just want you to know how much I love you and appreciate you.”*

Narrator            Bro/Sis \_\_\_\_\_ please come forward and take a ribbon.

*3<sup>rd</sup> testifier comes forward and testifies while the 2<sup>nd</sup> testifier is taking the ribbon out to the congregation. They then take their ribbon to the congregational member.*

Narrator            “Line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, there a little.” The kingdom of God is built one soul at a time. We are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone. May I remind you that God is Love? “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”

Bro/Sis \_\_\_\_\_ please come forward and take a ribbon.

***4<sup>th</sup> testifier testifies.***

Narrator            On that wonderful Christmas morning Our Lord stepped out of eternity and robed Himself in flesh. He was not clothed with fine linen and purple robes. He was not laid in a crib of gold and silver. But he humbled himself. The everlasting God, the Lord, the creator of heaven and earth humbled himself and was laid in a manger in Bethlehem. In the sky a star appeared and made itself known to wise men in the east. Nearby angels appeared to shepherds and declared the birth of the messiah. “And this shall be a sign unto you,” the angels said, “Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

Humbling, humbling ever so humbling.

Bro/Sis \_\_\_\_\_ please come forward and take a ribbon.

***5<sup>th</sup> testifier testifies. By now 4 ribbons are stretched from the manger to the congregation. The testifiers may have to dip under or step over ribbons to stretch their ribbon out. Warn the testifiers not to let this be comical. Tell them to maintain a serious attitude.***

Narrator            Bro/Sis \_\_\_\_\_ please come forward and take a ribbon.

***6<sup>th</sup> testifier testifies***

Narrator            The love of God expressed by this manger was just the beginning of God’s plan for His first appearing. For that child grew to become a man.

***The character of Jesus enters. Preferably from the side, not down the center aisle. We don’t want him to be stepping over or ducking under ribbons. As the narrator continues Jesus goes to the manger and gathers the ribbons, three in each hand, then steps back 3 or 4 steps from the manger.***

Narrator            “For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”

Jesus said, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”

What is the gospel? The good news? “The kingdom of God is at hand.” A kingdom of peace, love and joy. You do not need to wait for eternity to find the peace of God. Jesus desires you to be filled with the love of God now ... here ... today. Those who find His love and are filled with His spirit here will fill His New Jerusalem tomorrow.

I ask now for the six who testified to stand. Those six who hold the ribbons with them are also asked to stand.

***The twelve people stand.***

Narrator Jesus died on the cross.

***Jesus now stretches out his hands as if on a cross. Three ribbons are still in each hand.***

Narrator I would like the six of you who have spread the good news to our testifiers to follow the trail of blood to your savior's side.

***The six testifiers quietly tell those who stand with them to move to Jesus's side by sliding their hands along the ribbon. The testifier stays in place, maintaining their hold on the end of the ribbon. Once all are near Jesus the Narrator continues.***

Narrator Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ please come forward and make your way to the manger.

Just as Joseph knelt beside the manger and gazed into the eyes of the baby Jesus, so our pastor kneels next to this manger. Just as Joseph tenderly watched over a growing Christ child, nurturing Him and teaching Him, so our pastor tenderly watches over this church, nurturing it and teaching it. Just as Joseph prayed for guidance in raising Jesus, so our pastor prays for guidance as he raises Christ's church in this city.

And when Jesus became a man He began a ministry of love. A ministry of miracles and teaching, of selflessness and sacrifice.

The six of you standing next to Jesus have also ministered through love and sacrifice. Because of you those at the other end of the ribbons have heard the good news.

I ask the six of you now to pull on your ribbon and once again draw your loved one to Jesus. Continue to pull hand over hand, drawing them closer and closer.

***As they obey this direction the six testifiers are brought to the feet of Jesus. When they get there they should kneel at Jesus' feet. When all are there the Narrator continues.***

Narrator What you see before you is a church. The church of the living God. A church of peace, love and joy. Are you hurting today? Are you without peace or joy? Then heed the call of the savior. Listen and obey the good news!

***Jesus lets go of the ribbons, stretches His hands out to the congregation and speaks.***

Jesus Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

***The pastor may now stand and continue an altar call. Or the musicians may begin a song. Take it where you want it to go.***

***Below is the script without the author notes. This is the copy the Narrator should have on stage.***

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*Addendum*

*Staging – you see how the ribbons will end up stretching from the manger to the church members.*

