

## Bible in an hour - Staging & Action

Part/ Set	Script	Characters action	Audience action/ SFX	Props	Stage management
1) Creation Swirly circle / Earth	<p>In the beginning, before time and space existed, there was God. God was, (and is, and always will be) Father, Son and Holy Spirit – filled with love, light, power and purity, three in one, the original family.</p> <p>And out of his love, the <b>Father</b> longed for children to be added to his family. The <b>Son</b> longed for brothers and sisters. The <b>Spirit</b> longed for somewhere to live.</p> <p>And so, God spoke.</p> <p>At his words, the <b>universe</b>, the <b>earth</b> and <b>everything that lives on land and sea</b> came into being.</p> <p>Then, God hand-made <b>humans</b>. He breathed his own life into them and they walked together with their Creator on the earth. They were his pride and joy, his sons and daughters He gave them authority to look after the rest of his <b>Creation</b>.</p> <p>Everything was beautiful and good, just like the God who made it all.</p> <p>God was perfectly connected to his children and they to him. They were also perfectly connected to each other. And <b>creation</b> flourished perfectly under the care of God's children.</p> <p>But, humans were tempted to doubt God's goodness... they chose to follow their own desires, to make themselves their own masters. They broke away from their perfect connection with God.</p> <p>Separated from him, they lost their perfect connection with each other, which became polluted by shame, blame and distrust.</p> <p>The Earth too was infected by the rebellion of its masters: still beautiful, but marred by <b>disease, decay and death</b>. And the God who made it all still longed to be with his children. But he was filled with love, light, power and purity and his children were now filled with sin. If he came close to them, they would die.</p> <p>The connection was broken and humans could not rebuild it.</p>	<p><i>F, S &amp; HS Circling</i></p> <p><i>F, then S, then HS reach arms out to audience (Hands by mouths)</i></p> <p><i>Trinity reach &amp; pick up 2 Humans (front row) - Walk together</i></p> <p><i>(Child of God sashes?).</i></p> <p><i>All admire</i></p> <p><i>(Father &amp; humans link arms)</i></p> <p><i>(Humans link arms)</i></p> <p><i>HS break linked arms with God</i></p> <p><i>Go to Snake? Take off "Child of God" sashes? Take black ones from snake</i></p> <p><i>(HS point at each other)</i></p> <p><i>Trinity reach out to humans Humans reach but cower</i></p>	<p><i>Universe: (stars with hands) Earth: planets (rolling arms) Everything that lives on land and sea: (Noises: Sea Trees Animals)</i></p> <p><b>"Creation":</b> all do above</p> <p><b>"Creation":</b> all do above</p> <p><b>"Disease etc"</b> - All moan</p>	<p>3 Crowns 2 coloured sashes 2 Black sashes Snake</p>	<p>Beforehand: Sit "Humans" at front, ready for God to "make" them</p> <p>Get snake ready for cue</p> <p>Humans' cue</p> <p>Snake's cue</p>

<p><b>2)</b> <b>Abraham</b> *Mesopotamia/ Canaan signs *Line + pegs for Promise scroll</p>	<p>Time, and some wicked generations, passed by with very few people who acted like they were God's children.</p> <p>But God decided, it was Time to act (<i>points at Time</i>). <i>Alarm rings</i> He spoke to a man called Abram, who lived in Mesopotamia. He said: "Leave your country, your people and your home and go to the land I will show you"</p> <p>And Abram did what God said. "OK".</p> <p>He packed up his family, left Mesopotamia and travelled to the land of Canaan.</p> <p>When he got there, God made some BIG promises to Abram.</p> <p>"I will give you this land"</p> <p>"I will bless you and make you into a great nation: kings will come from you".</p> <p>"And all the families on earth will be blessed through your family.</p> <p>"You will now be called Abrah<b>A</b>m because my breath is in you"</p> <p>And Abraham believed what God said.</p> <p>Even though he was a hundred years old, his wife Sarah was ninety and they had no children.</p> <p>Sure enough, God gave Abraham and Sarah an impossible son, Isaac, the first part of the fulfillment of his promises.</p> <p>Abraham's son Isaac had two sons, one was Jacob, who was later called Israel. Israel had twelve sons, one was Joseph.</p> <p>None of these men were perfect – they all made mistakes, had arguments, told lies or were proud. While they weren't that good, God is very good and he keeps his promises</p> <p>And he had promised that every family on earth would be blessed through them.</p>	<p>"Time" character strolls past shaking head</p> <p>God points at Time, who shakes crazily</p> <p>God gestures to Abe</p> <p>Repeats "ok"</p> <p>Walks from "Mes" side of stage to "Canaan" side</p> <p>God shows scroll to Abe (<i>Gestures to land</i>)</p> <p>(<i>Blessing hands</i>)</p> <p>(<i>One hand towards Abe, one towards audience</i>).</p> <p>"I believe what you said",</p> <p>"Even though we're as good as dead"</p> <p>Abe, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph stand up one after another &amp; stand in line.</p> <p>(<i>Jostle and mime argue</i>)</p> <p>Point back to Abe's promise?</p>	<p>God points to Time – alarm sound</p> <p>Lift up hands together</p> <p>On "God is very God, say "and he keeps his promises"</p> <p>Lift up hands together</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Time costume</li> <li>○ Abraham costume</li> <li>○ Baby</li> <li>○ Isaac, Jacob, Joseph signs</li> </ul>	<p>- Abram's cue - Mesopotamia sign</p> <p>- Canaan sign - Scroll to God</p> <p>Baby to Abe</p> <p>Cue Isaac, Jacob &amp; Joseph, holding names</p>
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<p><b>3) Egypt</b>  <b>*Pyramid</b>  <b>S,</b>  <b>*Egypt</b>  <b>sign</b></p>	<p>Through Joseph the whole family ended up in Egypt, taking refuge from a famine in Canaan.</p> <p>And there in Egypt, the children of Israel settled and <b>grew in numbers</b>.</p> <p>Time flew by... 400 years in fact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In that time whole tribes descended from each of Joseph's brothers – the 12 tribes of Israel.</li> <li>In those 400 years the Israelites also became the <b>slaves</b> of the Egyptians, poorly treated and worked to death.</li> </ul> <p>But God heard the cries of his <b>enslaved</b> people, suffering under the Pharaoh's cruelty...</p> <p>It was <b>time</b> for the next stage of his plan (<b>Alarm rings</b>) because</p> <p><b>God is very good and he keeps his promises.</b></p> <p>He raised up an unlikely hero, <b>Moses</b>, to tell the <b>Pharaoh</b>:</p> <p><b>"Let my people go!"</b></p> <p>He had to say it quite a few times...</p> <p>Even though each time, God sent a different plague, eventually, after the tenth plague, <b>Pharaoh</b> said:</p> <p><b>"Alright, get out of Egypt!"</b></p> <p>And so they did!</p> <p>As the Israelites left, led by a pillar of fire (<i>Holy Spirit leads</i>), the Egyptians changed their minds and chased after them with their horses and chariots.</p> <p>God led his children in an impossible escape (<i>Egyptians growl</i>), through an <b>impossible route</b> to a desert where it was impossible to survive.</p>	<p>Time "flies" across stage</p> <p><b>12 Tribes</b> jump up and start chanting their names</p> <p>Trinity cup ears</p> <p>Point to Time</p> <p>Repeat - <b>"Let my people go!"</b></p> <p><i>Moses - "let my people go" x3... Pharaoh shakes head each time)</i></p> <p>Repeat - <b>"Alright, get out of Egypt!"</b></p> <p><i>(12 tribe leaders stand up &amp; walk along front of audience)</i></p> <p><i>(Holy Spirit leads)</i></p> <p><i>(Fire, Moses + 12 walk through "red sea")</i></p>	<p>All pop up from hunched position</p> <p><b>"Slaves"</b> – wrists together, groan</p> <p>Groan</p> <p>Alarm rings</p> <p><b>"and he keeps his promises"</b></p> <p>On <b>"Impossible route"</b> audience part to make way through middle – arms as waves</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moses costume</li> <li>12 tribes signs</li> <li>Pharaoh costume</li> <li>Pillar of fire</li> </ul>	<p><b>12 Tribes</b> need to be wearing their names and dispersed amongst audience</p> <p>- Moses cue - Pharaoh cue</p>
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<p><b>3b)</b>  <b>Desert</b>  *Desert sign  *Hessian over pyramids  *Line &amp; peg for promise scroll</p>	<p>By his power he rescued them...  He miraculously fed them...  And gave them water to drink...</p> <p>And so the people lifted up their voices and cried:  <i>(3 of the 12)</i>  <i>"I hate this food, it's sooo boring"</i>  <i>"We're probably going to die here"</i>  <i>"It was like waaay better in Egypt"</i></p> <p>The people were <b>grumpy</b>, <b>moany</b> and they didn't trust God.</p> <p>But <b>God is very good</b> and <b>he keeps his promises</b>.</p> <p>He still planned to use his people to show his goodness to the world.  But first he needed to teach them who <i>he</i> was and who <i>they</i> were.</p> <p>He was full of <b>Love</b>, <b>light</b>, <b>power</b> and <b>purity</b> and he wanted to live with his people... but they were full of sin, so if he came close, they would die.</p> <p>So, he gave <b>Moses</b> some <b>promises</b> (scroll) and with them, the law</p> <p>He said "If you keep my law, I will bless you, but If you break my law you will have trouble".</p> <p>And God asked them to make him a tent, called the Tabernacle, which was set up in the centre of their camp.</p> <p>The pillar of fire, God's guiding presence, filled the tent and towered above it.</p> <p><b>God is very good &amp; he keeps his promises</b>.</p> <p>So they would not be destroyed near his presence because of their sin, God allowed them to sacrifice an animal, often a lamb with no marks or defects, that died instead of them.</p> <p>But, the next time they broke the law, they would have to do it all over again.</p> <p>Because of their <b>complaining</b> and lack of trust, the people wandered in the desert for 40 years, God's presence camping with them as a pillar of fire over the tabernacle.</p>	<p><i>(3 of the 12)</i>  <i>"I hate this food, it's sooo boring"</i>  <i>"We're probably going to die here"</i>  <i>"It was like waaay better in Egypt"</i></p> <p>Reaches arms to 12 + Moses</p> <p>God gives Scroll and Stone tablets to Moses</p> <p><i>Moses puts up pop-up tent</i></p> <p><i>HS with fire</i></p> <p><i>Moses demonstrates with table, lamb toy, red ribbon</i></p> <p>12 stand by tabernacle looking about as if lost</p>	<p>Huffing, tutting and grumbling</p> <p>...and he keeps his promises</p> <p>... and he keeps his promises</p> <p>Tutting &amp; grumbling</p>	<p>Pillar of fire  Pop up tent  Table, Lamb, red ribbon  Scroll  Stone Tablets  Line + peg</p>	<p>Scroll and Stone tablets ready</p> <p>Tabernacle pop up tent ready</p> <p>Table with lamb &amp; ribbon ready</p>
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<p>4)  <b>Promise  d Land</b>  Promised  sign  Line +  Peg</p>	<p>After 40 years, the children of Israel crossed the Jordan and went into the land God had promised their ancestor Abraham all those years ago.</p> <p>To begin with, the Israelites had some great victories as they took over the land in obedience to God, but as time went on...</p> <p>Things started to go bad. Instead of getting rid of all the evil things that were happening in the land God had given them, to make it holy, the Israelites just joined in – worshipping idols, sacrificing their children and forgetting all the things God had showed them about who he is and who they were.</p> <p>But even though his people were doing a terrible job of being his people...</p> <p>God is very good and he keeps his promises</p> <p>It was time for the next part of God's plan to unfold (alarm rings).</p> <p>David – from the tribe of Judah – was a worshipper and a man after God's own heart.  He wanted to please God. "I want to please you God"  He wanted to build a house, a temple for God's presence to live in, so people could come and worship him.  "I want to build you a lovely house"</p> <p>But God made David a promise:  I know you want to build me a house, but I am going to make you a house. Your throne and your kingdom will endure – one of your descendants will be my son and will reign forever... (David freezes)</p> <p>David's son Solomon did build God a splendid temple (raises temple).  When the priests held a special celebration to open the Temple, the fiery cloud of God's presence returned. (HS with fire), like he had in the Tabernacle with Moses.</p> <p>David and Solomon were not perfect people: David murdered a man and Solomon disobeyed God's law (Both look shamefaced)  But, God is very good and he keeps his promises</p>	<p>The 12 cross river - Promised Land sign</p> <p>The 12 march in circle and gradually become more disordered, bowing down away from God, jostling etc</p> <p>God points to Time, who shakes</p> <p>Repeat - "I want to please you God"</p> <p>Repeat "I want to build you a lovely house"</p> <p>God hands David his scroll</p> <p>(David freezes)</p> <p>Enter Solomon, raises temple.</p> <p>HS comes with pillar of fire</p> <p>(Both Kings look shamefaced)</p>	<p>And he keeps his promises</p> <p>Alarm rings</p> <p>... and he keeps his promises</p>	<p>Big Temple  David Costume  Solomon costume  Pillar of fire  Line + peg + scroll</p>	<p>Cue David</p> <p>Scroll ready</p> <p>Cue Solomon  Temple ready  Pillar of fire</p>
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<p>5) <b>Kingdoms and Exile</b> Northern Kingdom &amp; South Kingdom sign</p> <p>Big Temple</p>	<p>After that, things got a bit messy for the children of Israel. They split into 2 Kingdoms, one in the north, one in the south.</p> <p>All the Kings of the Northern Kingdom were <b>bad news</b>. One after another they disobeyed God's law, encouraged the people to worship false gods and totally failed to show the other nations how good God was.</p> <p>God sent many <b>prophets</b> to remind the Northern Kings and the people about his law, to call them back to him.</p> <p><i>Prophets get up and start shouting "Turn back to God!"</i></p> <p>But the Northern Kings and the people <b>didn't want to hear it</b> (<i>fingers in ears "la la la"</i>)</p> <p>And so, because God means what he says, and because the people had not obeyed God's law, the consequences came.</p> <p>The Northern kingdoms were raided by the mighty <b>Assyrian empire</b>, taken into exile and scattered far beyond the land God had given them, <b>never to return</b>. (<i>Dum dum dum</i>)</p> <p>The Southern Kingdom was only slightly better. They did have some Kings who listened to God and did what pleased him, but they also had a lot who were also <b>bad news</b>.</p> <p>God sent <b>other prophets</b> to remind the Southern Kings and the people about his law, to call them back to him. <i>Prophets get up and start shouting "Turn back to God!"</i></p> <p>But, many of the Southern Kings and the people <b>didn't want to hear it</b> (<i>fingers in ears "la la la"</i>)</p> <p>Some of the <b>prophets</b> spoke of a King who would come and save his people... the <b>Messiah</b>. <i>"There will be a King who will save his people – the Messiah!"</i></p> <p>And so, because God means what he says, and because the people had not obeyed God's law, the consequences came.</p> <p>The Southern kingdoms were raided by the mighty <b>Babylonian empire</b>. (<i>Babylonians come and take Judah &amp; Benjamin to Babylon</i>). The Temple was destroyed and all the descendants of David were carried off to Babylon... the ones who were supposed to have a Kingdom that would last forever!</p> <p><b>Time</b> dragged by... After some time, the exiled Jews were able to trickle back to their homeland.</p> <p>They rebuilt the Temple... but the fire of God's presence did not return</p>	<p>"Northern &amp; Southern" sign.</p> <p>The 12 split with Judah &amp; Benjamin in South – rest in North</p> <p>Northern Kings look evil</p> <p>Kings and people put fingers in ears "la la la"</p> <p>Assyrians come through crowd &amp; take Northerners away</p> <p>Southern Kings &amp; people put fingers in ears – "la la la"</p> <p>Babylonians come and take Judah &amp; Benjamin to Babylon.</p> <p>(Time drags past)</p>	<p>"Bad News" - <b>Boo!</b></p> <p>Anyone 10 and under stands up and shouts "repent!" or "Turn back to God" Kings and people put fingers in ears "la la la"</p> <p>"Never to return" - <b>Dum dum dum</b></p> <p><b>Boo!</b></p> <p>Other prophets (anyone 11 and over) stand up &amp; shout "repent" etc</p> <p>Southern Kings &amp; people put fingers in ears – "la la la"</p> <p>"Messiah!"</p>	<p>Northern &amp; Southern sign Big Temple (<i>gets knocked down</i>) Assyrian costumes Babylonian costumes Small Temple</p>	<p>Assyrians ready</p> <p>Babylonians ready</p> <p>Big Temple face down</p>
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<p><b>6)</b> <b>Silence</b> ("..." sign?)</p>	<p>400 years passed.</p> <p>The Jews held on tightly to what they still had. They became very worried about breaking God's <b>law</b>, because things had gone so wrong for them when they did. They added more <b>laws</b> to make sure they wouldn't keep breaking the ones God had given.</p> <p>They still hoped and prayed for the day when the promised King would come, the <b>Messiah</b> who would save them from their many invaders.</p> <p>But there were no more prophets telling the people what God was saying.</p> <p>It seemed that God was <b>silent</b>.</p>	<p><i>(Time trudges by)</i></p>	<p>"Did you break God's law?"</p> <p>"Did you break God's law?"</p> <p>"Messiah!"</p> <p>Whistling sound</p>		
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<p><b>7) Jesus Galilee &amp; Judea sign Fishing nets?</b></p>	<p>Then out of the silence, a voice was heard, calling in the wilderness...</p> <p>"Make way, make way, prepare yourselves, the King is coming!" (John Baptist comes from back, through crowd)</p> <p>God sent <b>John</b> to let the people know that it was time for the next, very important part of his plan to unfold (<b>alarm rings</b>).</p> <p>The Father sent the Son to put on earthly flesh and blood and be born a human. <i>(Father sends son, who takes off crown, puts on robe and kneels at front)</i></p> <p>He was not just born anywhere, to anyone... he was born to a family who were great great great grandchildren of David, From the Tribe of Judah who followed Moses in the desert, Whose ancestor was Abraham. <i>(Time goes back around "timeline", pointing to characters &amp; promises)</i></p> <p>...To fulfill the promises that God had made to each of those men in his big plan to bring his children back into his family.</p> <p>Because <b>God is very good</b> and <b>he keeps his promises</b>.</p> <p>Jesus was both ordinary and completely extraordinary. <i>(Stands up)</i></p> <p>He had friends and family, he laughed and cried, he got tired, he ate and drank and went to parties. <i>(Disciples – the 12 – come &amp; join)</i></p> <p>But he also <b>healed sick people, raised the dead and walked on water</b>. He was filled with Holy Spirit's power. God's presence never left him, because he always pleased the Father in everything he thought, said and did... God's love, light, power and purity lived in him and shone out of him. (Jesus moves to middle of crowd on "walked on water")</p> <p>He completely changed many people's lives (half crowd - "<b>Hooray!</b>"). But he made some people very, very angry (other half - "<b>Seeth &amp; growl!</b>").</p> <p>One of the things John said when he saw Jesus walking along one day was: "Look, this is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the whole world". And when those angry people arrested Jesus and put him on a cross and killed him... ...they didn't know it, but they were taking the ultimate perfect human, one who had never done anything wrong - God's own sacrificial lamb and all the sin and sickness and death and sorrow</p>	<p>John: "Make way, make way, prepare yourselves, the King is coming!" (parts the way to make a "road" through crowd)</p> <p>God points to <b>Time, who shakes</b></p> <p><i>(Father sends son, who takes off crown, puts on robe and kneels at front)</i></p> <p><i>(Time goes back around "timeline", pointing to characters &amp; promises)</i></p> <p><i>(Stands up)</i></p> <p><i>(Disciples – the 12 – come &amp; join)</i></p> <p>John Baptist – "look, this is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the whole world"</p>	<p><b>Alarm rings</b></p> <p>...and he keeps his promises</p> <p>One half - <b>It's a miracle!</b> Other half - <b>He's alive!</b> All <b>make waves with arms</b></p> <p>One half – <b>hooray!</b> Other half – <b>angry growls</b></p>	<p>John Baptist costume Jesus costume Stake for cross? Ribbons</p>	<p>Cue John the Baptist</p>
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<p><b>8) Holy Spirit</b></p> <p><b>Jerusalem sign</b></p>	<p>When Jesus had risen from the dead, he told his followers to wait in Jerusalem for the gift his Father would send them. It was time for the next part of God's amazing plan (<b>alarm rings</b>).</p> <p>After he had left the earth to be with his Father again, the disciples met up in Jerusalem to pray and eat together.</p> <p>During one of these times, the rushing sound of a <b>violent wind</b> came and filled the whole house. They saw what looked like flames separating and coming to rest on each one of them.</p> <p>They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in <b>different languages</b>. The people out in the streets, who had come from other lands, could understand them.</p> <p>No longer was the fire of God's presence in a <i>tent</i> or a <i>Temple building</i>, but God's people were now <i>living temples</i>, carrying the fiery presence of God with them into the world.</p> <p>The Holy Spirit led many men and women into amazing, miraculous and often dangerous situations to give other people the good news that they could be forgiven, healed and have brand new lives as God's children.</p>	<p>God point to <b>Time</b>, who shakes crazily</p> <p><i>(Jesus waves, puts back on crown but keeps clothes)</i></p> <p><b>Violent wind</b> – howling noise</p> <p><i>(Pillar of fire hands out flames!)</i></p> <p><b>Different languages</b> – speak another lang</p> <p>The 12 are full of passion: <b>"Come on!"</b></p> <p><i>(Disciples go out into the crowd: "good news, good news")</i></p>		<p>Table Flames Pillar of Fire</p>	
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<p><b>9) World</b></p>	<p>God is very good and he keeps his promises</p> <p>He promised Abraham that every family on earth would be blessed through him.</p> <p>He showed Moses that he wanted to live with his people, but that their sin had to be dealt with otherwise they would die.</p> <p>He promised David that one of his descendants would have a Kingdom that would last forever.</p> <p>He told the prophets that there would be a Messiah who would save God's people.</p> <p>And Jesus was all of these promises coming true.</p> <p>At last, the Father was receiving his children back, Because the Son had won them for him, and the Holy Spirit was living in his people, the sign they were God's children.</p> <p>And now, it is our part of the story.</p> <p>We can be God's children too, if we simply say sorry to God for the things we have done wrong and receive his forgiveness.</p> <p>We can be filled with the Holy Spirit, God's powerful presence.</p> <p>And when we have done this, we are God's ambassadors, carrying his presence with us wherever we go, so that the world can know how much God loves them.</p> <p>Because: "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him will not die, but live forever with him".</p>	<p><i>(Characters line up as they are named)</i></p> <p>Jesus stands at end of line</p> <p><i>(Disciple links arms with Father, who is linked to Son &amp; Spirit)</i></p> <p>All characters, including God, look at audience with expectation</p> <p>Trinity point to audience and to globe Other characters cheer audience on</p>	<p>..and he keeps his promises</p> <p>"Messiah!"</p> <p>"God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him will not die, but live forever with him".</p>		
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