

Lent B — Theme 1: He Comes to Challenge | Leader Instructions

This folder contains two original bonus drama skits for Lent B, Theme 1. These skits are **optional** — they are not part of the printed Leader's Guide — but they offer a powerful, fun way to bring the theme to life through performance.

Both skits explore the same big idea as the lesson: Jesus' radical call to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow him. They are designed to work across generations, with roles for kids, teens, and adults in the same cast.

What's in This Folder

Leader Instructions - Bonus Drama Skits.pdf This document.

Skit 3 - Signal Lost/

Skit 3 - Signal Lost (Full Script).docx Complete script for director/leader

Skit 3 - Signal Lost (Actor Sides).docx Individual cue sheets for each actor

Skit 4 - Life Hacks Live/

Skit 4 - Life Hacks Live (Full Script).docx Complete script for director/leader

Skit 4 - Life Hacks Live (Actor Sides).docx Individual cue sheets for each actor

About the Skits

Skit 3: Signal Lost

Type: Cross-generational comedy-drama

Cast: 1 adult, 1 teen, 2 kids (4 total)

Runtime: Approximately 8–10 minutes

Scripture: Mark 1:12-13 — “And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness... and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.”

Setting: A family car, mid-road-trip — until the signal (and the excuses) run out

Three kids grumble their way through a family road trip, glued to dying phones — until the signal drops completely and their parent reveals it wasn't an accident. What starts as comic panic (no wifi for sixty miles!) slowly shifts into a genuine moment of quiet. By the end, each character notices something real they'd been too distracted to see.

Best for: Sunday morning worship, family faith nights, small group settings, or a Lent program opener. Works beautifully with 4 participants or as a congregational performance. The intimate setting and relatable humor make it especially effective for younger audiences.

Skit 4: Life Hacks Live

Type: Cross-generational comedy with serious pivot

Cast: 4 adults/teens, 2 kids, 1 offstage voice, 1 running announcer (8 total)

Runtime: Approximately 12–15 minutes

Scripture: Mark 8:34-36 — “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me... For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?”

Setting: A TV news studio covering “Life Hacks Live”

A fast-paced parody news show in which reporters chase the latest hack for a better life — a productivity guru, a self-improvement serum, a wealth strategy built on never giving anything away. A wise guest keeps trying to redirect the conversation to Mark 8, and a quiet observation from the trends reporter (“People are starving for something that isn’t selling them anything”) shifts the tone. A final, slow “hack alert” about a neighbor quietly helping another brings the room to stillness.

Best for: Large group settings, all-church worship, Lent program nights, or any context where you want a high-energy performance with a meaningful landing. The news-show format is immediately familiar to kids and adults alike.

Casting Notes:

SPARK (kid) has short, memorable lines and big running entrances — ideal for a young or first-time performer. REMOTE (offstage voice) is perfect for a shy participant who wants to be involved without appearing on stage. Skit 4 can be trimmed by cutting FLOW’s or VAULT’s lines, or condensing ELDER’s speeches, if needed.

How to Use These Skits

When to Use Them

- As an opener for a Lent program or family night (Skit 3 or 4)
- As a children’s message substitute during Sunday worship (Skit 3 works well)
- As a full congregation drama for a Lent Sunday service (Skit 4 works well)
- As a rehearsed performance for a mid-week Lent event
- As a low-prep reading activity — actors can read from their sides, no memorization required

Adapting the Scripts for Your Congregation

All skit scripts and actor sides are provided in Microsoft Word (.docx) format, which means they are fully editable. Feel free to adapt the dialogue, character names, cultural references, or humor to better fit your congregation's context and personality. A joke that lands perfectly in one community may need a small tweak in another — these scripts are a starting point, not a finished product.

Common adaptations include: swapping a pop culture reference for one your group will recognize, adjusting a character's name, shortening a speech, or naming a local landmark in place of a generic one.

Preparation Tips

- One rehearsal is usually enough, especially for Skit 3.
- Actors do not need to memorize lines — reading from their Actor Sides is perfectly fine.
- Props can be simplified or pantomimed if needed.
- The skits can be performed with or without costumes — minimal staging works well.
- For Skit 4, a table as a “news desk” and a handmade sign reading LIFE HACKS LIVE are all you need.
- Consider having REMOTE read from behind a curtain, a door, or simply offstage.

Using the Actor Sides

An **actor side** contains only one character's lines — plus a few words from the line said just before theirs, so they know when to speak. Instead of printing the full script for every actor, print the Actor Sides document and hand each actor only their own section.

This keeps rehearsal focused and helps kids stay on track without hunting through multiple pages. Kids in particular do much better with their own side than with a full script.

See the instructions at the top of each Actor Sides document for full details on how to print and distribute.

Connection to the Lesson

Both skits connect directly to the Lent B, Theme 1 lesson theme: *He Comes to Challenge*. The central question — “What does it mean to deny yourself and take up your cross?” — is explored through humor, distraction, and ultimately a quiet moment of recognition.

Either skit can be used:

- Before the lesson, as a warm-up that raises the question the lesson will answer
- After the lesson, as a reinforcement of the central idea
- As a standalone activity in place of or alongside other lesson components

The skits are designed to complement the lesson, not replace it. They work best when the leader connects them explicitly to the Scripture and discussion questions in the Leader's Guide.

Key Scripture

Mark 1:12-13 — “And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.”

Mark 8:34-36 — “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?”