



# SKETCHES

by Nan Allen



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# LOOK WHAT GOD HAS DONE

#### Sketches and Performance Options

## By Nan Allen

NOTE: "The Tour" sketches build on one another, so prepare to perform all of them, or use the Scripture reading setups instead.

#### **PRODUCTION NOTES FOR "THE TOUR"**

On-screen graphics should be used during the sketches; however, you can use some of the objects even if you don't perform the sketches.

#### **On-screen Graphics**

- ° Banner that reads Welcome to Look-What-God-Has-Done Exhibit
- ° Picture of a large anchor
- ° Picture of a large rock or boulder
- ° Picture of a power plug
- <sup>o</sup> Picture of one of your students, youth pastor, or other staff member soaked, but wearing a child's flotation device (the more ridiculous the better)
- ° Picture of chains

**Characters** 

Tour Guide—male or female: should be very efficient and professional Patron #1—male Patron #2—female Patron #3—female Patron #4—male

#### Props

- ° junk food items, cell phones, cameras
- ° Tour Guide may carry a tall flag, identifying him or her as the guide.

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## **SECTION I: LOOK WHAT GOD HAS DONE**

SONG: "Look What God Has Done"

## **SKETCH: THE TOUR, PART 1**

(Lights up. **Tour Guide** is crossing from stage right to left. Behind her or him, there is a line of **Patrons** who are following the guide in single file. One has food or a drink, one has a video camera or phone. Another [or several] has a phone on which he/she is texting. As the **Tour Guide** is reminding the **Patrons** of the rules, they put food, cameras, and phones away. All look a little guilty or annoyed when doing so.)

(On-screen: a banner that reads Welcome to Look-What-God-Has-Done Exhibit)

**TOUR GUIDE:** (*to* **Patrons**) Welcome ladies and gentlemen. I'll be your guide today. First, let me remind you that there is absolutely no eating or drinking while at the exhibition hall, no video, no flash photography. Refrain from touching any of the exhibits. And please, no texting throughout the tour.

And so ... let us begin. (as **Tour Guide** leads **Patrons** across the stage) We're walking and we're walking ... (**Tour Guide** exits. Patrons remain onstage and begin the following conversation among themselves.)

**PATRON #1:** Dude, this is like so lame.

PATRON #2: Yeah, museums are so like ...

PATRON #3: Hashtag: ... last century?

PATRON #4: Fo' reals. Like history class and ... board games.

**#1:** ... and hip-hop ...

**#2:** ... and Crocs<sup>™</sup> (or another shoe brand) ...

**#3:** ... and potato chips.

#4: Yeah, like ... (suddenly) what? Potato chips are my favorite.

(Tour Guide reenters and motions for Patrons to follow offstage left.)

TOUR GUIDE: ... and we're walking ... and we're walking.

(lights down)

Instead of the sketch, or in addition to the sketch, you may use this Scripture reading. The lines may be divided among several readers, or use this as a congregational responsive reading.

"Let the whole earth shout joyfully to God!

Sing about the glory of His name; make His praise glorious.

Say to God, 'How awe-inspiring are Your works! Your enemies will cringe before You because of Your great strength.

The whole earth will worship You and sing praise to You. They will sing praise to Your name.

Come and see the wonders of God; His acts for humanity are awe-inspiring.

He rules forever by His might; He keeps His eye on the nations. ...

Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard.

He keeps us alive and does not allow our feet to slip.

Come and listen, all who fear God, and I will tell what He has done for me."

(Psalm 66:1-5,7-9,16, CSB)

## **SECTION II: LOOK AT HIS GOODNESS**

SONG: "Only King Forever"

**SONG:** "Great Things"

## SKETCH: THE TOUR, PART 2

(On-screen: picture of an anchor)

(Lights up as **Tour Guide** enters with **Patrons**, crossing left to right)

**TOUR GUIDE:** We're walking and we're walking and now we're stopping ...

(pointing to the screen)

If you'll look to your right, you'll see an item we call an anchor.

(Patrons talk to each other. Tour Guide pantomimes the rest of his/her spiel about the anchor.)

**#1:** My grandpa has an anchor just like that for his boat when he takes me fishing.

**#2:** Is it like ... ancient?

**#1:** No, *he's* an old codger, but I think the anchor is kind of new.

**#3:** I thought everything in this place was ... like ...

#**4:** ... yeah ... like ...

**TOUR GUIDE:** (*speaking aloud to* **Patrons**) Anchors can hold small fishing boats to huge tankers in place. Neither the wind nor the waves can make a vessel drift if the anchor is secure.

**#1:** (to **Tour Guide**) Excuse me. I thought everything in a museum is like ... old.

**TOUR GUIDE:** Many of the items are, but not all, and even if they are old, they have stood the test of time. Now, please ... (motions for **Patrons** to follow) ... we're walking and we're walking. (exits)

(Patrons look at each other and shrug, then speak the following lines as they exit.)

**#1:** This is like no other museum I've ever been to.

**#2:** Yeah ... like what is this about?

**#3:** Who cares? We get out of school.

**#4:** ... and they're feeding us lunch later.

Instead of the sketch, or in addition to the sketch, you may use the following Scripture adaptation.

God rules the raging sea; when its waves surge, He stills them.

He calms the storm to a whisper, and the waves of the sea are hushed.

And He guides us to the safe harbor we have longed for.

For we have this hope, Jesus, as an anchor for our souls, firm and secure.

(adapted from Psalm 89:9; Psalm 107:29-30; Hebrews 6:19)

**SONG:** "King of My Heart"

**SONG:** "I Love the Lord"

#### **SKETCH: THE TOUR, PART 3**

(Lights up as **Tour Guide** and **Patrons** are looking at the on-screen picture of a rock.)

TOUR GUIDE: Here is our next exhibit.

**#1:** It's a rock.

TOUR GUIDE: Yes, it is.

**#2:** What is a rock doing in a museum?

**#3:** Is it a famous rock ... like Plymouth Rock ...

**#4:** ... or like the Rock of Gibraltar ...

**#1:** ... or like Dwayne Johnson ... also known as The Rock?

**TOUR GUIDE:** Except for the last one, the other references make a good comparison.

**#2:** What do you mean?

**TOUR GUIDE:** Well, this gallery is a reminder of things past, present, ... and future.

**#4:** Fo' reals?

**TOUR GUIDE:** Fo' reals. This is all about what God has done, is doing, and will always do.

**#3:** So, the anchor?

**TOUR GUIDE:** Our hope is in Him who keeps us firm and secure.

**#1:** And the rock?

TOUR GUIDE: Well, what is more solid than a rock?

**#2:** OK, is this a quiz?

**#3:** Yeah, 'cause we thought we were out of school for the day.

#4: Yeah ... when's lunch?

Instead of the sketch, or in addition to the sketch, you may use the following Scripture reading.

"The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock where I seek refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."

"The LORD lives — blessed be my rock! The God of my salvation is exalted."

"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You, LORD, my rock and my Redeemer."

"He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I will never be shaken."

"The LORD is my refuge; my God is the rock of my protection."

"Trust in the LORD forever, because in the LORD, the LORD Himself, is an everlasting rock!"

(Psalm 18:2,46; Psalm 19:14; Psalm 62:2; Psalm 94:22; Isaiah 26:4, CSB)

# SECTION III: LOOK AT HIS FAITHFULNESS

SONG: "Ever Be"

SONG: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" with "Because He Lives (Amen)" and "Never Once"

## **SECTION IV: LOOK AT HIS POWER**

#### **SKETCH: THE TOUR, PART 4**

(Lights down; all patrons enter carrying flashlights; some put them under their chins to try to scare the others.)

**#1:** What happened, you guys?

**#2:** Did we like blow a fuse or something?

**#3:** Somebody like flip a wrong switch ... or?

**#4:** Oh no, I hope they can still cook lunch!

(enter **Tour Guide** with a flashlight)

TOUR GUIDE: Ladies and gentlemen ...

**#1:** Hey, what happened to the lights?

**#2:** Yeah, I'm a little ... like ... scared.

**#3:** Me too.

**TOUR GUIDE:** Nothing happened to the lights. The power goes off in this part of the exhibit to show you something.

#4: You're trying to show us darkness?

**TOUR GUIDE:** Not really. We are trying to demonstrate that when you unplug from God's power, you will find yourself stumbling in the dark. Lights?

(lights up suddenly; on-screen picture of a power plug)

TOUR GUIDE: (exiting) Shall we? We're walking ...

(**Patrons** look around suspiciously, and then follow the guide offstage.)

SONG: "O Praise the Name (Anástasis)"

**SONG:** "Forever (We Sing Hallelujah)"

SONG: "What a Beautiful Name"

## **SECTION V: LOOK HOW HE SAVED ME**

#### **SKETCH: THE TOUR, PART 5**

(On-screen picture of a student, the youth pastor, or pastor soaked and wearing a child's flotation device)

(enter Patrons)

**#1:** (pointing to the screen) Do you see that?

**#2:** Yeah, kinda wish I hadn't though.

**#3:** Like ... frightening.

#4: What kind of exhibit is that?

(enter **Tour Guide**)

TOUR GUIDE: Oh, there you are. This exhibit is the picture of one of our survivors.

**#1:** Survivors of what?

**TOUR GUIDE:** A pretty tough situation. He (or she) was hopelessly lost, but was thankfully rescued.

#2: Oh, I see. God did that?

**TOUR GUIDE:** He did. But not with a silly child's toy. That's just for effect.

**#3:** It's affecting me all right.

#4: So how did God rescue him (or her)?

**TOUR GUIDE:** That's a good question.

**#1:** So now *we're* giving the quizzes.

**#2:** Tables have turned.

**#3:** The student becomes the teacher.

**#4:** I want to know the answer to the question, no matter who does what.

TOUR GUIDE: May I do it with a song?

(music begins for "Jesus Saves")

Instead of the sketch, or in addition to the sketch, you may use the following Scripture reading.

"For God loved the world [so much that] He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life" (*John 3:16, CSB*).

"Jesus is the stone rejected by you builders, which has become the cornerstone. There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to [us] by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:11-12, CSB).

"For [we] are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from [ourselves]; it is God's gift — not from works, so that no one can boast" (*Ephesians 2:8-9, CSB*).

SONG: "Jesus Saves"

SONG: "The Lord Is My Salvation"

## SECTION VI: LOOK HOW HE FREED ME

#### **SKETCH: THE TOUR, PART 6**

(on-screen picture of chains)

TOUR GUIDE: And finally, our last exhibit for today.

(pointing to the screen) Chains ...

**#1:** Chains?

**#2:** Oh, I get it ... I think.

**#3:** It's like ... we're rescued ... and ...

**#4:** ... and then chained up? That doesn't sound good.

**TOUR GUIDE:** You aren't bound in chains. It's just the opposite. Chains of guilt and shame—those things that got you lost in the first place—fall off.

#1: Oh ...

**#2:** Yeah ...

#3: I see ...

**#4:** I still don't get it.

TOUR GUIDE: Well, let's talk about it over lunch.

**#4:** Lunch?

TOUR GUIDE: Yeah, I've got a gift for you.

**#4:** A gift? I hope it's Skittles<sup>®</sup>. I love Skittles.

**TOUR GUIDE:** Better than Skittles. It's the Word of God.

**#1:** So, we exit through the gift shop.

**#2:** I get it—captive audience.

**#3:** Souvenir hunters alert.

**#4:** No, guys. This is the Word of God ... which is better than anything!

**TOUR GUIDE:** (*leading the group offstage as music begins*) And we're walking ... we're walking.

SONG: "Death Was Arrested"

SONG: "The Gospel"

## SKETCH: IT'S WHO I AM

(The following can be blocked and performed however you would like. The questions may be asked and answered by nine different actors in the choir or in the audience.)

1: Who am I?

- 2: You are a new creation.
- **3:** You are chosen.
- **4:** Who am I?
- 5: You are a child of God
- **6:** You are a friend of Jesus.
- 7: Who am I?
- 8: You are a citizen of heaven.
- **9:** You are ... worth dying for.
- **1:** Yes, I am.
- **4:** Yes, I am, too.

(music begins for "Tell Me")

7: That's who I am.

SONG: "Tell Me"

**SONG:** "Glorious Day"

## SECTION VII: LOOK HOW HE LOVES ME

#### **SKETCH: MY LIFE IS HIDDEN**

<u>Characters</u> Student—male or female Observer—male or female

(Enter **Student** carrying three plastic storage bins—one small, one medium, one large—with matching lids and a roll of duct tape. **Student** places items at center stage, and then takes the smallest bin and tapes it closed. Next, **Student** takes the small bin and places it inside the medium-sized bin, and then tapes this lid securely ... overdoing it perhaps. Then **Student** places the medium bin [with the small bin still inside] in the large bin. He or she tapes the large bin shut ... greatly overdone.)

**STUDENT:** There. All done.

(enter **Observer**)

OBSERVER: All done? What is this?

**STUDENT:** It's my life.

**OBSERVER:** You'll need to explain that one.

**STUDENT:** Well, Colossians three, verses two and three say to set my mind on things above, not on earthly things. For I died, and my life is *hidden* ... with Christ ... in God.

**OBSERVER:** I still don't follow.

**STUDENT:** In order for anything to harm me, it will have to go through Almighty God first, and then His Son Jesus before it can get to me.

OBSERVER: Cool.

Instead of the sketch, or in addition to the sketch, you may use the following Scripture reading.

"If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory" (*Colossians 3:1-3, CSB*). SONG: "In Christ Alone Medley"

SONG: "Your Love Awakens Me"

## SECTION VIII: DON'T LOOK/JUST LISTEN

#### **SKETCH: LISTEN TO THE VOICE**

<u>Characters</u> Student #1—male or female Student #2—male or female Student #3—male or female Voice—adult male

(Scene opens with **Students** sitting at center stage, talking to each other.)

**#1:** Sometimes, you know, when I pray, it's like no one is listening.

**#2:** Yeah, me too.

#3: I hear ya.

- **#1:** If I could just see what God wants ...
- #2: Yeah, and I really need to hear Him.
- **#3:** I say all the right things, I think ... but mostly ...

(Offstage God-like voice)

**VOICE:** Close your eyes.

(Students look around to see where the voice is coming from.)

**#1:** What? Me?

VOICE: Yes. You. Close your eyes.

**#1:** OK. (places hands over eyes)

**VOICE:** Now, close *your* ears.

**#2:** Close my ...

VOICE: Close your ears.

**#2:** If you say so. (places hands over ears)

**VOICE:** And you ... you close your mouth.

**#3:** OK. (places hands over mouth)

(Students are now like the image of the Three Wise Monkeys.)

**VOICE:** Now ... open up your hearts. Let me show you and tell you what I want to say.

(music begins for "Speak, O Lord")

Instead of the sketch, or in addition to the sketch, you may use the following Scriptures and Scripture adaptations.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God" (Matthew 5:8, CSB).

Speak, Lord, for I am listening. (adapted from 1 Samuel 3:9)

Be silent before the Lord and wait expectantly for Him. (adapted from Zephaniah 1:7)

Be still and know that He is God. (adapted from Psalm 46:10)

"God, create a clean heart for me and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not banish me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore the joy of Your salvation to me, and sustain me by giving me a willing spirit" (*Psalm 51:10-12, CSB*).

SONG: "Speak, O Lord"

SONG: "A Clean Heart"