

I used to love 'This is your Life' as a child. This is a script which can be adapted depending on the number of children you have. After each character is welcomed, they stand next to me (with my red book containing the script) and say in character how they knew Jesus. The list of possible characters is at the end of the script. I always give the children time to write a little speech in the first person, time to practise, we do a rehearsal as a class and then invite a younger class to be an audience for the performance. Some children like to find a costume too. I use an empty chair to be 'Jesus'. Hope it works for you!

### **Jesus: This is your life Script**

Good afternoon and welcome to 'This is your life'. With us today, not in person, but in spirit is Jesus Christ. In the studio we have friends and family who want to wish you well Jesus on this special day- to tell you, "Jesus: This is Your life".

#### Scene 1 (Birth)

Let me take you back to your childhood. You were born to Mary, a virgin and Joseph, a carpenter in 4BC. Even at this early age, it was clear that you were a special baby- your birth was not a normal one.

Please welcome into the studio, **Joseph** your father and the **innkeeper**.

You won't remember these people, but they remember you. Please welcome the **shepherd** and the **wise man**.

By the age of 12, you had grown up to be a studious boy, keen to learn about God. You spent a lot of time in the Temple.

#### Scene 2 (Baptism)

While you were growing up, your cousin John started telling everyone about you. He started getting a name for himself- the Baptist- as he had an unusual way of telling people about God.

Will you please welcome into the studio, **John the Baptist** and **Matthew/Andrew** the disciple who saw you baptised.

#### Scene 3 (Ministry)

At 30, you realised that being a mere carpenter was not fulfilling the call of God on your life. After you were baptised, you spent 40 days being tempted by the devil in the desert in preparation for your ministry.

When you come out of the wilderness, you choose 12 men to help you with your work who you call your disciples.

You become famous for your stories which you call parables. Some people scoffed at your teaching, but others' lives were changed.

Please welcome the **lawyer** who asked you questions.

It wasn't just your sermons that gained you followers. You start showing God's power through miracles. People saw you feed 5000 people with just 2 fish and 5 loaves and make a paralysed man walk.

Here tonight are **Jairus, his daughter** and the **woman** you healed from bleeding.

You even performed the amazing miracle of bringing someone back from the dead who had died 4 days before. **Lazarus** is here to say thank you.

Scene 4 (the end?)

After 3 years, you had also got some peoples' backs up- especially the Jewish authorities who started to plot your death. Knowing your death was coming soon, you entered Jerusalem in a surprising way.

Please welcome **someone** who saw you arrive in Jerusalem.

You were arrested on Maundy Thursday when Judas told the authorities who you were by kissing you on the cheek. Then progressed a number of trials.

Please welcome **Pontius Pilate** and **King Herod** (boo)

Well even best friends let us down at times. At this crucial time in your life, Simon Peter denied he even knew you. He's here tonight to say how sorry he was- your old pal, **Simon Peter**.

Scene 5 (crucifixion)

Well your death sentence was set- death by crucifixion. The most violent and horrific of deaths, many turned out to see you being crucified. One of these people is here tonight- please welcome **Simon of Cyrene**.

You were not the only one to be crucified that day. 2 other men were also crucified- 2 thieves- and one of those **thieves** is here to tell his story.

There were mixed feelings about your death. Back stage are 2 people who have conflicting views- **Judas Iscariot**, the disciple who betrayed you, and one of the **soldiers who crucified** you. Please welcome them.

Scene 6 (resurrection)

After you died, many believed that was the end. You were placed in a borrowed tomb and **Joseph of Arimathea** who owned it is here today.

Being Passover, your body wasn't properly anointed. On the Sunday morning, your mother **Mary** and **Mary Magdalene** arrived at the tomb. Please welcome them.

Not everyone was overjoyed that you had risen from the dead. In fact someone got in trouble for not guarding the tomb well enough. Here is the **guard** posted in front of your tomb.

Not everyone believed that you had risen from the dead, despite your mother and Mary telling everyone. Even one of your disciples wouldn't believe it without proof. Please welcome **Thomas**.

Scene 7 (Ascension)

Well you lived on earth for another 40 days after you rose from the dead. Here are a couple of your disciples who were with you when you went back to heaven and remember what happened. Please welcome **Philip** and **John**.

Well Jesus, you left a message to the disciples to spread the good news about you which they did. Today billions of people all over the world have been touched by your stories and love for the people.

Which leaves just one thing to say...

Jesus- **(All stand and say)** This is your life.

**Characters:**

Written by Sarah Payne

- 1 Joseph (father of Jesus)
- 2 Innkeeper (the one who owned the stable)
- 3 Shepherd (at Jesus' birth) could have more than 1
- 4 Wise man (visited Jesus) could have more than 1
- 5 John the Baptist (cousin of Jesus, prepared the way for Jesus)
- 6 A disciple- Matthew (tax collector), James or Andrew (fisherman)
- 7 Lawyer who asked questions (Good Samaritan story was the response)
- 8 Jairus (the father of the girl who Jesus raised from the dead)
- 9 Jairus' daughter (raised from death by Jesus)
- 10 Woman healed of bleeding
- 11 Lazarus (raised to life after 3 days dead)
- 12 witness at Palm Sunday (any number to say what happened when Jesus came into Jerusalem on a donkey)
- 13 Pontius Pilate (gave the order to have Jesus crucified)
- 14 King Herod (wanted to be the king of the Jews, wanted Jesus dead)
- 15 Simon Peter (disciple, denied he knew Jesus)
- 16 Simon of Cyrene (carried Jesus' cross)
- 17 one of the thieves crucified next to Jesus
- 18 Judas Iscariot (disciple who betrayed Jesus)
- 19 Soldier who crucified Jesus (said This truly is the son of God)
- 20 Joseph of Arimathea (owned the tomb Jesus was buried in)
- 21 Mary, Jesus' Mum
- 22 Mary Magdalene (friend of Jesus, healed by him. First to see him when resurrected)
- 23 Guard placed in front of tomb
- 24 Thomas (doubted Jesus had risen)
- 25 Phillip or John (disciples)

Other characters could be the tax collector Zacchaeus, the paralysed man or anyone who was healed by Jesus. Or a rabbi from the temple, or a Pharisee who hated Jesus.