Parable Time

Great Commission

The Adventures of Alex and Sophie • 7 Acts

13 char | 71 min

What begins as a quiet summer visit quickly takes a turn when Alex and Sophie join Grandpa on a journey across the world. From unfamiliar cultures to unexpected challenges, each stop pushes them out of their comfort zones and into moments that test their courage and faith. Along the way, they learn that sharing their faith isn't about having all the right words, but about love, sacrifice, and trusting God to change hearts.

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Act 1 - Introduction

(Grandpa enters packing luggage and searching for tickets)

Grandpa:
Oh, where was it? Where was it? Hmm. They must be here somewhere. Come on old head, think, think. Where did you leave them?

(Alex and Sophie enter)

Alex:
Alright, alright, I admit. Maybe I was wrong.

Sophie:
Yeah, twice.

Alex:
But this time will be different, come on.

Sophie:
Look, Alex, if you wanna play in the weeds all day, be my guest. But I am not wasting my summer fishing again.

Alex:
Suit yourself, just don't make a big deal about it.

(Alex opens door to Grandpa's house)

Alex:
Gramps!

Grandpa:
Alex! There you guys are.

Alex:
I missed you.

(Alex hugs Grandpa)

Grandpa:
Hu hu. Me too. Me too

Grandpa:
Look at you. You're growing so fast.

Alex:
Not fast enough. It felt like school would never end.

Grandpa:
Sophie! Good to see you.

Sophie:
Hello.

Alex:
So, here's what I was thinking. Let's just grab the snacks and unpack later. The sooner we leave the better. Oh, and Sophie said she doesn't wanna fish, which is fine, she can just watch or read a book or something. Let's go gramps!

Grandpa:
A book! That's where they are! You're a genius Alex.

Alex:
I know. Isn't it- wait, what do you mean?

Grandpa:
I was looking all morning for these, and I just remembered where they are.

Alex:
These what?

(Grandpa finds tickets inside book)

Grandpa:
Tickets.

Alex:
Tickets? For what?

Grandpa:
What do you guys say we go on a trip?

Sophie:
I think that's a great idea!

Alex:
But, I thought we were staying here.

Sophie:
Thank goodness we're not. I mean, sorry [chuckle], it's not that I don't like it here. I really do. It's just, the only thing Alex ever wants to do is go fishing, and that usually means I sit around and do nothing.

Alex:
If you don't like it, you should have stayed home.

Grandpa:
Alex, my boy, please don't be upset.

Alex:
It's not fair, Grandpa. I was looking forward to this all year. This is our time. We always go fishing.

Grandpa:
I know, I know. I enjoy it as well.

Alex:
Then why did you get us tickets to who knows where?

Grandpa:
Well, I thought this year we can do something a little different.

Alex:
Traveling is boring. I wanted to fish.

Grandpa:
We can still fish.

Alex:
We can?

Grandpa:
Sure.

Alex:
Is there gonna be a lake where we're going?

Grandpa:
Uh, no, not exactly.

Alex:
Hold up, are we going ocean fishing? I don't have the right stuff for that.

Grandpa:
No, not ocean fishing.

Alex:
Ice fishing? I always wanted to go ice fishing.

Grandpa:
No.

Alex:
Umm, fly fishing?

Grandpa:
Nope.

Alex:
Hm. What kind of fishing?

Grandpa:
Have you ever heard of people fishing?

Alex:
Uh, no. I'm pretty sure that's illegal.

Grandpa:
[chuckles]. I don't mean literally with a hook. That would be silly.

Alex:
Yeah, and painful.

Grandpa:
Right [chuckles]. It's an expression for telling them about Jesus.

Alex:
Oh.

Grandpa:
Are you not excited?

Alex:
No, well, not that I'm not excited-

Grandpa:
Come on, it'll be fun. Right, Sophie?

Sophie:
I mean, it sounds like a good idea-

Alex:
Look who's not so excited anymore.

Sophie:
I just don't know if I'm ready for that yet.

Grandpa:
And why not?

Sophie:
Well, I don't know. I'm still just a kid.

Grandpa:
There's nothing wrong with that.

Sophie:
I'm nervous.

Grandpa:
Oh, there's nothing to be afraid of! We'll see a lot of new places, lots of new people, different food, all kinds of things.

Alex:
Do I have to go, Grandpa?

Grandpa:
Of course, I can't leave you here alone.

Alex:
I mean, the evangelizing part. I don't mind traveling, but I don't feel comfortable talking to people about our faith.

Grandpa:
Hmmm. Well. It looks like we still have some time before the flight. How about a little story? Huh? Take a seat.

(Villagers enter)

Grandpa:
Somewhere out there, in the middle of nowhere, there was a village of people who lived by a well. Every evening, when the sun wasn't scorching, the village folk would come to the well. They filled up their buckets and had plenty to drink. They could water their gardens, water their flocks, drink all they could, and still have enough. But there came a day, when the well would dry up. All the water was gone, there wasn't a drop. The people started to panic. What would they do? "We will all die of thirst," they began to shout. So they started to dig all over the place. They searched and they searched, but had no success. All hope was lost, they felt so depressed. It's just a matter of time before they saw their end. Then, one day, a young boy went out to play. As he was playing, he came near a cave. He had never seen this cave before. Being curious as he was, he went in to explore. "Water!" He cried out. In the cave there was water!

(Villagers freeze)

Grandpa:
Now, I'll pause right here. This boy had a choice: he could tell the rest of the village where he found water or he could keep it a secret and be the only one to know. What do you guys think he should do?

Sophie:
Tell the village, of course, otherwise everyone would die of thirst.

Grandpa:
Exactly. Now, when we believed in Jesus we became like that boy. We found the only source of water, everlasting life. But if we just kept it to ourselves, the rest of the world would die of thirst. Would that be right?

Sophie:
No.

Grandpa:
You see. We should be excited just like the boy. We found the water. We found life! Everyone needs to know about Jesus!

Alex:
I guess you're right, Grandpa, but don't people need Jesus here too? Why should we go somewhere else?

Grandpa:
You are absolutely correct. People need Jesus everywhere, not just in other countries.

Alex:
Well, since we're going somewhere, you know what's a nice place that could really use some evangelism?

Grandpa:
What's that?

Alex:
Hawaii.

Grandpa:
[chuckles]

Alex:
Or maybe we can go to the Bahamas. I'm sure we'll find plenty of people there.

Sophie:
Speaking of which, you never mentioned where we're going, sir.

Grandpa:
That's right. Grab your bags kids. First stop, the land of Israel.

Alex:
Oh boy! That's where Jesus lived.

Grandpa:
Yes, and surprisingly they still need him there.

Sophie:
What about our passports? I didn't pack mine.

Grandpa:
[smirks] Check your bags.

Sophie:
What! How?

Grandpa:
I have my ways [chuckles]. Well then, are we ready to go?

Alex:
Wait.

Grandpa:
What is it?

(Alex picks up fishing rod)

Alex:
I'm gonna miss you, old pal. [kiss] Ok, let's go.

Grandpa	(male)
Alex	(male)
Sophie	(female)
Ishmael	(male)
Local	(male)
Seller	(female)

Act 2 - Jesus Is The Way (Israel)

(Grandpa, Alex, Sophie, and Locals enter)

Grandpa:
Baruch Hashem. Praise God, we made it!

Alex:
[stretches] What a flight.

Sophie:
Man, I almost forgot I had legs.

Alex:
Seriously. I thought we'd never land.

Sophie:
So what's first? Are we going on a tour? Or should we eat? It's been what, like five hours since we ate?

Alex:
I don't know about you, but I'm starving. What do they have here, gramps?

Grandpa:
Hold on a minute Alex. How about we say a quick prayer of thanks, hmm?

Alex:
[rushing] Thank you God for protecting us on the flight. Amen.

Grandpa:
Alex.

Alex:
What? You said quick.

Alex:
Okay. Okay. Thank you, Jesus, for your protection on our flight, and especially your gift of salvation. Please help us share the good news with the people here. In Jesus name, amen. Oh, and please help us find a nice place to eat. Amen.

Grandpa:
Amen. Okay, here's the plan. I'll go get us checked in for the night, and then we can find a place to eat. How does that sound?

Alex:
Here. Can you grab our stuff? Sophie and I can go look around for a good restaurant.

Grandpa:
Alright, but don't go too far.

Alex:
[sniffs] Ahh, I can smell it already. Let's go.

(Grandpa enters hotel. Alex and Sophie exit then re-enter)

Alex:
You know what I'm craving right now?

Sophie:
What?

Alex:
A nice juicy steak with some mashed potatoes and an ice cold lemonade.

Sophie:
Pff, you got money for that?

Alex:
Yeah, I've been savin' all year.

Sophie:
Really?

Alex:
Yep. Thirty-eight dollars and sixty-two cents.

Sophie:
That's it? Where are you gonna find a steak for thirty-eight dollars? McDonalds?

Alex:
Thirty-eight dollars and sixty-two cents.

Sophie:
And you're just gonna spend it on a steak?

Alex:
Hey, it's not every day you're in Israel.

Sophie:
And then you wonder why you're always broke.

Alex:
Look, money is meant to be spent. Now do you see any nice places?

Sophie:
I don't think we're in the right part of town for steak.

Alex:
Yeah, you're right. Let's keep going I guess.

Sophie:
But your grandpa said we can't go too far.

Alex:
Well, then let's go back the other way. Maybe there's something over there?

Sophie:
Hold up. Since we made it this far already, why don't we tell some of these people about Jesus?

Alex:
I'd rather wait.

Sophie:
Come on, your grandpa would be proud of us.

Alex:
We're not doing this for my grandpa.

Sophie:
I know, but why not?

Alex:
Cuz, I'm hungry right now.

Sophie:
Right.

Alex:
It is right. I can't concentrate on an empty stomach.

Sophie:
I think that's an excuse.

Alex:
It’s not an excuse.

Sophie:
I think you’re scared.

Alex:
I’m not scared.

Sophie:
Then prove it.

Alex:
You know what, I will.. not. I don’t have to prove anything.

Sophie:
Are you ashamed?

Alex:
No.

Sophie:
Then how hard can it be?

Alex:
Mmm..fine. Who should we talk to?

Sophie:
I don’t know, maybe the lady at the stand?

Alex:
Alright, let’s try.

(Alex approaches Seller at the stand)

Alex:
What are you doing? Come on.

Seller:
Hello, dear boy, welcome, welcome.

Alex:
Oh, uh, thanks.

Seller:
I love you very much. You are my friend, yes?

Alex:
Uhm, yes?

Seller:
Yes. yes. Let me get you something. You are hungry, yes? What would you like?

Alex:
Uhm, actually-

Seller:
We have fresh fruit. Very juicy. Best fruit in town. How many, my friend?

Alex:
Uhm-

Seller:
I know, it's hard choice. Just get them all [laughs]. They are good, yes?

Alex:
Ugh-

Seller:
Come on, come, you are holding up the line.

Alex:
Sorry, ugh, I'll just get...palf a hound, I mean, half a pound of figs please.

Seller:
Oh, my favorite. We are best friends now. I give you one more extra free, on me, okay? I love you very much. Here you go. Only ten dollars please.

Alex:
Ten dollars?

Seller:
It is very cheap. Very good price. This is one of a kind fig. You trust me, yes?

Alex:
Yeah, thanks.

Seller:
Enjoy, enjoy. Come back for more, okay?

Sophie:
That.. was hard to watch.

Alex:
Where were you?

Sophie:
What happened there? You looked like you saw a ghost.

Alex:
You were supposed to come with me.

Sophie:
Hey, at least you got your “one of a kind” figs.

Alex:
You’re not funny. I’d like to see you try.

Sophie:
You know, I think it’s actually time to head back. Your grandpa’s probably done checking in by now.

Alex:
Oh yeah, yeah. Not so confident anymore, are we?

Sophie:
I just don’t want him worrying or anything, you know?

Alex:
Mhm, you’re just as scared as I am.

Sophie:
No, I could go right now if we wanted to.

Seller:
You little rat!

(Ishmael falls. Seller standing with broom)

Ishmael:
[painfully] Ahhhh.

Seller:
Stop pretending! I didn't touch you.

Local:
What is the meaning of this?

Ishmael:
[painfully] Mmmm.

Local:
What happened?

Ishmael:
She hit me.

Seller:
Lies!

Local:
What were you thinking hitting the poor boy?!

Seller:
I didn't touch him. He stole from my shop.

Ishmael:
I didn't take anything. Oh, it hurts.

Local:
Here, let me help you up.

Ishmael:
Thank you, sir.

Seller:
He's a little thief. How can you not see through his deceitful little smirk?

Local:
This is very bad for your business, very bad.

Seller:
I'm gonna get you one of these days.

Alex:
Hey, hold up! I saw what you did.

Ishmael:
What did I do? She hit me.

Alex:
You faked it

Ishmael:
You have no proof.

Alex:
I saw you fall down on purpose.

Ishmael:
What is that?!

(Ishmael steals the bag of figs)

Ishmael:
[laughing] You snooze, you lose.

Sophie:
Hey! That's not cool.

Ishmael:
[mocking] "Hey! That's not cool." Pff, you think I care?

Alex:
You should care. What you're doing is wrong.

Ishmael:
To you it's wrong. To me it's right.

Alex:
No, to God it's wrong, and He doesn't like that. So you better stop.

Ishmael:
Or what?

(Alex approaches the seller at the stand)

Ishmael:
Or what? You're gonna snitch on me?

Alex:
Excuse me.

Seller:
Oh, yes, hello my friend. Are you here for more figs?

Alex:
No.

Seller:
They not good?

Alex:
It's not the figs. I just wanted to ask how much a bag of pistachios costs.

Seller:
Oh, for you I give discount. Only twenty-five dollars.

Alex:
No, how much without a discount?

Seller:
What do you mean? I give discount for you, my friend.

Alex:
How much without?

Seller:
That is weird question. I don't know, no one ever asks.

Alex:
So, how much?

Seller:
Twenty-six dollars?

Alex:
Ok, here.

Seller:
I mean, twenty-seven dollars.

Alex:
Here's twenty-seven.

Seller:
You are too kind my boy. You will love this, I guarantee.

Alex:
No, I don't need the pistachios.

Seller:
What? You already pay.

Alex:
It's for that boy that stole from you.

Seller:
What?

(Alex returns to Sophie and Ishmael)

Ishmael:
Why did you do that?

Alex:
Because that's the right thing to do.

Ishmael:
You are a joke.

Alex:
Look, I know we come from two very different sides of the world, but you and I are not very different. We both make mistakes, and we both make God very unhappy. But you know what? God paid a big price for us.

Ishmael:
What price?

Alex:
Well, Jesus gave up his life. He died for you and me.

Ishmael:
Why would he die?

Alex:
Because we deserve to die for how terrible we are. [pause] But, he didn't stay dead. He's alive, and if you want to be alive with him in the afterlife then Jesus is the only way.

Ishmael:
What way?

Alex:
Repent and believe. Stop living like this-

(Alex takes the bag of figs)

Alex:
And start living for Jesus.

Ishmael:
[spits]

(Ishmael exits)

Sophie:
I did not see that coming.

Alex:
Honestly, neither did I.

Sophie:
I can't believe you paid for him. How are you gonna buy your steak now?

Alex:
No idea, but I hope it was worth it.

Sophie:
Of course it was. I'm impressed.

Alex:
Anyways, let's head back. Gramps is probably worried.

Sophie:
Hey, at least you got your figs back.

Alex:
I don't even like figs.

Grandpa	(male)
Alex	(male)
Sophie	(female)
Shani	(female)

Act 3 - Love (Kenya)

(Alex, Sophie, and Grandpa enter)

Alex:
But I can help too, Grandpa.

Grandpa:
Like I said, Alex, there just won't be enough room.

Alex:
I can sit in the back. I don't take up much room.

Grandpa:
And besides, there's plenty for you to do here.

Alex:
But that's girl's stuff. Guys don't belong in the kitchen.

Grandpa:
Now that's not true. Some of the best chefs I know are men.

Alex:
Well, we're not here to cook anyways. We're here to share the good news, remember?

Grandpa:
It's hard to listen on an empty stomach. Wouldn't you say so?

Alex:
I just think I should go with you. I'll be more useful there.

(Shani enters)

Shani:
Hello, hello!

Grandpa:
Shani, Habari!

Shani:
Habari! [chuckles]

Grandpa:
Alex, Sophie, this is Shani.

Sophie:
Hello.

Alex:
Hi Shani.

Shani:
Sophie, you are so beautiful!

Sophie:
Oh, thank you [chuckles].

Shani:
I love your hair.

Sophie:
Really?

Grandpa:
Sophie and Alex will stay here with you for a little, if that's okay?

Shani:
Yes, of course, that is wonderful.

Grandpa:
I'll make a trip to pick up some supplies. I shouldn't be long.

Alex:
Gramps, please.

Grandpa:
Alex, we're done with that conversation.

Alex:
Hmmph.

Grandpa:
Well then, I'll be back soon. Be good kids!

Shani:
Tuonane tena!

Sophie:
Hey Shani, what does that mean?

Shani:
See you soon.

Sophie:
How do you say it again?

Shani:
Tuonane.

Sophie:
Tu-Twa-Tuonane.

Shani:
Tena.

Sophie:
Tena.

Shani:
Tuanane tena.

Sophie:
Tuanane tena.

Shani:
Yes, very good [chuckles].

Sophie:
Where did you learn English?

Shani:
Missionaries that come, they teach us.

Sophie:
That's cool.

Shani:
What is cold?

Sophie:
Oh, no, not cold. Cool is just a way of saying something is nice.

Shani:
Oh. You are cool.

Sophie:
[chuckles] Well usually.. you know what, nevermind. So, where is everybody else at?

Shani:
Today is harvest day. Everyone is working in the field.

Sophie:
Gotchya. Why did you stay behind?

Shani:
I prepare the evening meal.

Sophie:
Do you need any help?

Shani:
No, no. You are the guest.

Sophie:
That's okay, we're here to help.

Shani:
Oh, Sophie, you are such a cool girl.

Sophie:
You are too, Shani. So, what can I do?

Shani:
Please, sit.

Sophie:
No, really, I don't mind. Just tell me what to do.

Shani:
Okay, maybe you can sweep?

Sophie:
Of course. Where's the broom?

Shani:
There, by the house.

Sophie:
So, what do you plan to cook today?

Shani:
Today we cook rice and beans.

Sophie:
Oh, nice. What about on the side?

Shani:
What side?

Sophie:
I mean, you're making like a salad or something else too, right?

Shani:
No, just rice and beans. We don't have much to choose from.

Sophie:
Really? That's it? No chicken? No steak?

Shani:
Oh, no, meat is very expensive.

Sophie:
Oh.

Shani:
But, we do have something special tonight.

Sophie:
That's exciting. What is it?

Shani:
Grasshoppers!

Sophie:
Grasshoppers? Like the crickets?

Shani:
Yes!

Sophie:
Geee.

Shani:
You don't like grasshoppers?

Sophie:
Umm, I've never tried one.

Shani:
You will love it! I know. Okay, I need to get water from the river. I will be back.

Sophie:
How do you say it again? Tuananen...

Shani:
Tuanane tena [chuckles].

(Shani exits)

Sophie:
Did you hear that? Grasshoppers. That's their special treat. [pause] Alex, are you listening? Are you still mad you didn't go with your grandpa?

Alex:
This just feels like a waste of time.

Sophie:
Well, you can stop wasting your time and help with something.

Alex:
Like what?

Sophie:
Anything. Make yourself useful.

Alex:
I should be out there doing important things.

Sophie:
Alex, this is important too.

Alex:
How is sweeping the floor gonna save somebody?

Sophie:
We're here to serve in any way that helps. Plus, sometimes our actions can say a lot more than our words.

Alex:
I'm willing to help, just with bigger things.

Sophie:
Don't you think it's important to eat too? Or have a nice place to sit? Like your grandpa said, if the people are hungry, they're not gonna listen to you no matter how important your message is.

Alex:
Yes, but, there's girls for that.

Sophie:
Jesus wasn't a girl and he washed his disciples' feet.

Alex:
That's different.

Sophie:
No it's not. He had so many more important things to do. Like preach and heal and pray, but instead, he chose to wash their feet.

Alex:
He was making a point.

Sophie:
Exactly. To do everything with love, to humble ourselves. We aren't better than anyone else.

Alex:
I wasn't saying that I'm better than anybody.

Sophie:
But you're acting like it.

Alex:
How?

Sophie:
It doesn't look good if you're just sitting around when others are working.

Alex:
I'm just waiting for Gramps to get back, then we'll help with the harvest.

Sophie:
But Shani needs help here too. She's all by herself.

Alex:
She has you.

Sophie:
You're anyways not doing anything. You might as well help.

Alex:
I'm saving my energy for the harvest.

Sophie:
When are you gonna understand? It's not about what you do, it's about how you do it. You can show just as much love helping here.

Alex:
I don't know.

(Shani enters)

Sophie:
Do you need help Shani?

Shani:
[struggling] M-Maybe.

Sophie:
If only there was somebody strong enough that could help.

Alex:
I can carry it.

Sophie:
Are you sure?

Alex:
Easy. Here, let me get it.

Shani:
Oh, thank you [chuckles].

Alex:
Where do you want it?

Shani:
Over there is okay.

Sophie:
And I think I'm all done here, Shani! What's next?

Shani:
We need to start the rice.

Sophie:
Great. Where is it?

Shani:
In the house, but it is heavy.

Alex:
I got it.

Shani:
Thank you, Alex.

Shani:
Is he your brother?

Sophie:
Alex? No, he's a friend.

Shani:
Oh, cool. Good friend?

Sophie:
Yeah.

Shani:
Ah, good, good friend.

Sophie:
No, no, not like that Shani. You're funny.

Shani:
[chuckles] Shh, shh.

Alex:
Why are you guys so quiet?

Sophie:
Oh nothing.

Alex:
You're talking about me, aren't you?

(Grandpa enters)

Sophie:
You're back! That was fast.

Grandpa:
As promised. How are you guys hanging up?

Alex:
Good. Here gramps, I can put it in the house.

Grandpa:
Thank you, Alex. Are you ready to go?

Alex:
Actually, I think I'll stay here. They need me.

Grandpa:
Oh, okay. Are you sure?

Alex:
Yeah, go on without me. We got a lot to do before the evening.

(Alex pushes Grandpa out)

Grandpa:
If you say so [chuckles].

Grandpa	(male)
Alex	(male)
Sophie	(female)
Shaman	(male)

Act 4 - Prayer (Greenland)

(Shaman enters and performs ritual on drum)

Shaman:
Ohhmmmm.

(Alex and Sophie enter)

Sophie:
You hear that? Come on.

Alex:
Man, I really hope he’s gonna be okay.

Sophie:
There. Maybe he can help? Excuse me.

Shaman:
Ohmmmmm.

Sophie:
Sir, please! It's really urgent.

Alex:
Please, we need help. My grandpa's in trouble.

(Shaman stops and looks up)

Alex:
There was hole. He couldn't see it under the snow.

Shaman:
Ohmmmmm.

Sophie:
Oh, it's no use. Let's find someone else.

Alex:
Please, sir. It's an emergency.

Sophie:
Come on, Alex, we're wasting our time. He doesn't understand you.

Alex:
Where else can we go? There's nobody here.

Sophie:
Let's check the village.

Shaman:
No people. Ohmmmmmm.

Alex:
Wait, what was that? What did you say?

Sophie:
You're just hearing things, Alex. Let's go.

Alex:
No, he said there's no people. Sir, where did they go?

Shaman:
Shhhh. Ohmmmmm. Hmmmph.

(Shaman drums really fast and then stops suddenly)

Alex:
So where are the people?

(Shaman starts drumming again)

Shaman:
Wait. Mmmmmm.

Alex:
Ugh. How long is this gonna take?

Shaman:
Two more.

Alex:
That's fine. We can wait two more minutes. Then will you help us?

Shaman:
Two hours.

Sophie:
Two hours?

Alex:
No, no, no, we can't wait that long. Come on, sir, this is not that important.

Shaman:
Very important. Mmmmm.

Alex:
How can this possibly be important right now? My grandpa needs you.

Shaman:
Village need me.

Alex:
Needs you for what? There's nobody here.

Shaman:
Big fish.

Alex:
What?

Shaman:
Fish spirit give big fish.

Alex:
How does that make any sense?

Sophie:
He's praying for the village to catch big fish.

Shaman:
Yes.

Alex:
Well, can't you just do this when we get back?

Shaman:
No!

Alex:
But it's the same thing.

Sophie:
Alex, by the time he's done drumming, we could find one of the locals. Let's go.

Alex:
He said they're all fishing. You're not gonna find anyone.

Sophie:
They can't all be gone. Someone's probably there.

Shaman:
No. All gone. Ohmmmmm.

Sophie:
Then what do you suggest we do? We don't have two hours to wait around.

Alex:
Maybe.. just.. ask again.

Sophie:
Can't you see it's useless? He won't budge.

Alex:
Just try.

Sophie:
I don't know what else to say.

Alex:
Anything.

Sophie:
Like what?

Alex:
Like, whatever he's doing is all pointless. This is not gonna catch them big fish.

Sophie:
Oh, yeah, let me just tell him that. He'll totally just drop everything and help, right?

Alex:
Come on, we have no other choice.

Sophie:
You can try if you want.

Alex:
Fine. Sir, your drumming won't get you any big fish, and honestly, it's very annoying.

Sophie:
Are you serious? Obviously he's not gonna help after that.

Alex:
What? How else do I say it?

Sophie:
With love. Sir, we didn't mean to barge in on your little service here, but we know someone that answers prayers without all these rituals. [pause] If you want, we can tell you about Him. He's much greater than any fish spirit. [pause] You won't need to do any sacrifices, or dances, or even drumming.

Alex:
It's no use

Sophie:
Honestly, we're better off going back and trying to pull your grandpa out ourselves.

Alex:
Well, at least you tried.

Sophie:
Let's go.

Shaman:
Wait. What spirit?

Sophie:
What?

Shaman:
Great spirit. Who?

Sophie:
Oh. Well, He's the greatest spirit of all.

Sophie:
Who?

Sophie:
The spirit of life, the creator of all things.

Shaman:
Life?

Sophie:
Yeah, the giver of life.

Shaman:
He give fish big?

Sophie:
I mean, I can't promise you that, but there's no reason not to ask.

Shaman:
You ask how?

Sophie:
We just ask, I don't know.

Alex:
It's kind of like when we came up to you and asked for help. You just ask.

Shaman:
Great spirit where?

Sophie:
Well, He's everywhere. You can talk to him anywhere, anytime.

Shaman:
No, too easy.

Sophie:
That's because it is. He wants everyone to have access to Him.

Shaman:
How?

Alex:
Here, hold on a second.
(Alex takes out a Bible)

Alex:
This is His word.

Shaman:
Sorcery!

Alex:
No! No. Not sorcery. This is His message to all mankind. Take it.

Shaman:
Hmmm.

Alex:
And, actually, there's even stuff about fish in here. I think you'll like it.

Shaman:
Fish.

Alex:
Yeah, fish.

Shaman:
No, fish.

Alex:
That's what I said. Fish.

Shaman:
No. You fish.

Alex:
Do I fish? Yeah.

Shaman:
No. You fish grandpa.

Alex:
What?

Shaman:
Hmmmph.

Shaman:
Here, rope. You. Fish. Grandpa.

Alex:
Oh, that's genius! Thank you, sir.

Shaman:
Go fish.

Alex:
Come on, Sophie, this will totally work.

Sophie:
I don't know, Alex, your grandpa's a pretty big fish.

Shaman:
[chuckles]

Grandpa	(male)
Alex	(male)
Sophie	(female)
Money Changer	(male)
Seller	(female)

Act 5 - Faith (China)

(Alex and Sophie enter)

Sophie:
I thought you didn't have any money left.

Alex:
I don't, but Gramps said I could buy something as long as it's not too expensive.

Sophie:
What are you gonna get?

Alex:
You'll see.

(Alex approaches toy stand)

Alex:
Hello.

Seller:
Níhǎo.

Alex:
How much for this?

Seller:
No, no dollar. Yuan.

Alex:
But how much is that in dollars?

Seller:
No, no dollar. Yuan.

Alex:
I don’t have any yuan.

Seller:
Exchange table.

Alex:
Where can I find that?

Seller:
Exchange table.

Alex:
Oh, okay. I’ll be right back.

Sophie:
Hold up, Alex, is it worth it?

Alex:
Why not? We need to bring something back from the trip, right?

Sophie:
Yeah, but you don't even know how much it is.

Alex:
Come on, it can't be that much. Hello. Can I exchange some dollars?

Money Changer:
How many dollar?

Alex:
How much should I do?

Sophie:
I don't know, like five bucks?

Alex:
What if it's more though?

Sophie:
Then don't buy it. That's too expensive.

Alex:
Well either way we're gonna need the yuan here. I'll just exchange it all.

Sophie:
I guess

Alex:
Twenty, forty, sixty, eighty, one hundred, one fifty. A hundred fifty dollars please.

Money Changer:
Okay. Here is one hundred fifty yuan.

Alex:
Thanks.

Money Changer:
You still need to pay exchange fee.

Alex:
Oh, right. How much is that?

Money Changer:
Let me calculate. Okay, for you only five yuan. Very cheap.

Alex:
Umm, okay. Here's five.

Money Changer:
Would you like to donate to feed hungry children in China?

Alex:
Pfff, why not? Here's another five.

Money Changer:
Thank you. Have a nice day.

Alex:
Yeah, you too.

(Alex returns to the toy stand)

Alex:
Okay, so how much for this again?

Seller:
Seven yuan.

Sophie:
Alex, that's ridiculous. You can buy that thing for fifty cents back at home.

Alex:
But this one is authentic. It's straight from China.

Sophie:
Literally, everything is straight from China.

Alex:
Here you go.

Sophie:
Do you realize you just paid seven dollars for some cheap little toy?

Alex:
It's a souvenir, what?

Sophie:
I don't think your grandpa's gonna be very happy about this.

Alex:
He'll be fine. It's not even that much.

Sophie:
Money doesn't grow on trees, you know.

Alex:
I know. Let's go.

(Alex and Sophie exit. Grandpa enters)

Grandpa:
Alex, where did you go?

Seller:
Níhǎo.

Grandpa:
Hi there.

Seller:
Please buy.

Grandpa:
I'm sorry. I would, but I don't have my wallet on me.

Seller:
Hmmph.

Grandpa:
You didn't see two kids come through here, did you?

Seller:
Sorry, no English.

Grandpa:
Uh huh.

(Grandpa approaches Money Changer at the well)

Grandpa:
Excuse me. I don't mean to interrupt. Did you by any chance see a boy and girl pass through here?

Money Changer:
No, sorry.

Grandpa:
Thank you for your time.

(Money Changer throws dollars into well)

Money Changer:
[whispers] I sorry.

Grandpa:
One more question, if you don't mind me asking. Why do you throw that money in the well?

Money Changer:
It is good karma.

Grandpa:
What do you mean?

Money Changer:
I pay for my wrong to have good afterlife.

Grandpa:
I see. Where does the money go?

Money Changer:
Village temple collect money and give to the poor.

Grandpa:
Mhm. Can I introduce you to a free afterlife?

Money Changer:
No, no, nothing is free. You have to pay.

Grandpa:
No, not for this one.

Money Changer:
It too cheap. Not good afterlife.

Grandpa:
Oh it's not cheap I'll tell you that. Streets of gold. Gardens. Mansions. It's all there.

Money Changer:
What you talking about?

Grandpa:
Heaven. A place with all your heart's content. Yep, and you know what the best part is? It’s all free. Jesus already paid for it.

Money Changer:
How I get there?

Grandpa:
Repent and believe in Jesus.

Money Changer:
How I believe?

Grandpa:
When you understand how much God loves you. He sent his own son to die for you.

Money Changer:
Why He die?

Grandpa:
Because if he did not, you would spend your afterlife in fire. Instead, he wants you to live with him in paradise.

Money Changer:
Me?

Grandpa:
Yes.

Money Changer:
But I not good person.

Grandpa:
That's exactly it. You can't be good enough.

Money Changer:
How I know I believe?

Grandpa:
Well, you know when Jesus has become your most prized possession. When he's more valuable to you than all the money in the world. When he's more valuable to you than even heaven itself.

Money Changer:
Hmm.

(Alex and Sophie enter. Money Changer rushes away)

Alex:
Gramps! There you are.

Grandpa:
I remember someone telling me they'll wait by the stand.

Alex:
Check out what I got. Pretty cool, huh?

Grandpa:
Nifty. How much did you pay?

Alex:
Well, it was a little pricey, but I didn't spend that much.

Grandpa:
How much is a little?

Alex:
Seven.

Grandpa:
Seven yuan?

Alex:
Yeah.

Grandpa:
Ah, well that's not bad at all.

Alex:
Really?

Sophie:
I don't know, I would never pay seven dollars for that thing.

Grandpa:
Oh, no. It's not seven dollars. Seven yuan is just under a dollar.

Alex:
Yeah, just under a dollar.. wait, what do you mean just under a dollar? I thought it was seven dollars.

Grandpa:
Alex, where is my wallet?

Alex:
Right here. I exchanged all the money cuz they only take yuan at these places.

Grandpa:
Are you okay, son? Where did you spend all the money?

Alex:
Nowhere. I only bought this toy. Oh, and I donated five for the hungry children.

Sophie:
And the exchange fee.

Alex:
Right.. and five yuan for the exchange fee.

Grandpa:
Alex, I had a hundred fifty dollars in here. Do you know how much that is in yuan?

Alex:
Yeah, a hundred fifty yuan, but like I said the fee and donation.

Grandpa:
No, Alex. It's over a thousand yuan.

Alex:
Over a thousand?!

Grandpa:
Yes, over a thousand. One dollar is seven yuan.

Alex:
Oh.

Grandpa:
This is not good, not good.

Alex:
I'm sorry grandpa, I didn't know.

Sophie:
And this is what happens when we don't learn how to use money.

Alex:
Can't you take out more money from the bank?

Grandpa:
The nearest bank is a hundred miles from here, Alex, we don't even have enough to pay for a ride [exhales]. I need a minute.

Alex:
It's all my fault, and all for this silly little toy.

Grandpa:
[inhales/exhales] You didn't know, son.

Alex:
What are we gonna do now? We're gonna sleep in the streets.

Grandpa:
I don't know yet. All we can do for now is just trust in God.

(Money Changer enters)

Alex:
[whispering] Gramps, that's him! That's the guy that scammed us.

Grandpa:
Him? Are you sure?

Alex:
Hey, you! You stole our money.

(Money Changer bows to the ground)

Money Changer:
I know, I know. Before you say anything, I sorry. I very sorry.

Alex:
Oh.

Money Changer:
Here is money I stole from you. I give back four time more. Forgive me, please.

Grandpa:
And that, my dear children, is the work of Christ himself. Get up, my brother, we don't hold it against you.

Money Changer:
Thank you, thank you.

Grandpa:
Praise God for His faithfulness.

Alex:
See grandpa, and you were worried.

Grandpa:
[chuckles]

Grandpa	(male)
Alex	(male)
Sophie	(female)
Homeless	(male)
Thief	(male)

Act 6 - Hope (India)

(Alex, Sophie, Grandpa, and locals enter)

Grandpa:
What a day. What. A. Day.

Sophie:
Phew, I'm exhausted.

Alex:
You know what sounds nice right about now?

Sophie:
Yeah. Taking a dip in a nice cold pool would be nice.

Alex:
That too. But I was gonna say some ice cream or a chocolate milkshake.

Sophie:
Ooo, yes. I would do anything for a milkshake right now.

Grandpa:
You know what, why not? Here, go get yourselves some ice cream.

Sophie:
Really?

Alex:
You're the best grandpa!

Grandpa:
You earned it. We worked hard today.

Alex:
Thank you, thank you.

Sophie:
Thank you, sir.

Grandpa:
Of course.

Alex:
Do you want anything?

Grandpa:
A water will be good.

Alex:
You got it. We'll be right back.

(Alex and Sophie exit)

Grandpa:
Hmm, now if only there was a place to sit.

Thief:
To sit? Yes, yes. I have for you, my friend. Please, please, follow me.

Grandpa:
Oh, really?

Thief:
Of course, of course. Anything for you, my friend. Please, enjoy.

(Thief shows Grandpa to a chair)

Grandpa:
Uhh, that's nice. This is much needed.

Thief:
You are tired, my friend. Please, stay as long as you like.

Grandpa:
That's very kind, thank you.

Thief:
My pleasure, my pleasure. It is comfortable, yes?

Grandpa:
Very.

Thief:
Good, good.

Grandpa:
I wouldn't even mind a little nap right about now [chuckles].

Thief:
A nap is good. You need rest. Please, make yourself comfortable.

Grandpa:
[inhales and exhales in relaxation]

Thief:
You need massage, yes?

Grandpa:
A massage? I wouldn't mind. How much?

Thief:
No, no. No money for you, my friend.

Grandpa:
Oh, come on, name your price.

Thief:
Trust me, my friend, for you it is free.

Grandpa:
I wouldn't let you do that. Let me see what I got.

Thief:
No, no, please, I will not charge you my friend.

Grandpa:
Well, if you insist [exhales]. This is good. Oh, oh, yeah, that's the spot.

Thief:
Good, good.

Grandpa:
[snoring]

(Thief attempts to steal Grandpa's wallet)

Grandpa:
[startled snoring]

Thief:
Shh, shh.

Grandpa:
[snoring]

(Alex and Sophie enter)

Sophie:
Come on, not even a little?

Alex:
I mean, maybe a little.

Sophie:
To be honest, I don't blame you. I would-

Alex:
Hey, stop!

(Thief snatches Grandpa's bag and runs off)

Alex:
Grandpa! Wake up! Wake up!

Grandpa:
Wah, wah?

Alex:
Your bag!

Grandpa:
Oh no!

(Alex, Sophie, and Grandpa chase Thief)

Alex:
Come on, come on!

Grandpa:
[panting]

(Thief gets away. Grandpa lags behind)

Alex:
[panting] No, no, no. The bag had everything in there.

Sophie:
[panting] Our passports. How are we gonna get home?

Alex:
[panting] Come on, we gotta find him.

Homeless:
You can stop running.

Alex:
Did you see him? Where did he go?

Homeless:
He is gone.

Alex:
But we almost had him.

Homeless:
That's what you think. It is what everybody thinks.

Sophie:
Gee [exhales], so optimistic.

Homeless:
Welcome to life kid.

Sophie:
I know it's hard [exhales], but being so glum doesn't make it any easier.

Alex:
He can't be too far. Let's look around.

Homeless:
Don't waste your time. You won't find him.

Alex:
How can you be so sure?

Homeless:
It's always one step ahead.

Sophie:
What do you mean?

Homeless:
Life is a thief. It only takes.

Sophie:
Why are you so negative?

Homeless:
Everyone always running, but get nowhere. Searching, but never find. Eating, but never full.

Alex:
Are you hungry? Maybe we can get you something to eat?

Homeless:
You feed me and then what? I just be hungry again. It is all meaningless.

Sophie:
No it's not.

Homeless:
The rich will die just like the poor. The righteous and unrighteous alike.

Sophie:
That doesn't mean it's all hopeless.

Homeless:
What do you know? I have been at the top. To me money was toilet paper, and all that for what? Money did not save my family from the earthquake.

Sophie:
I'm sorry.

Homeless:
Don't be sorry. That is also pointless. Life is a thief. It steals all your joy.

Sophie:
But there is hope, sir. Life doesn't end when we die, there's all of eternity.

Homeless:
And what is the point? More time does not change the past.

Alex:
The point is, in heaven there won't be any tears, or pain, or hunger, or.. earthquakes for that matter. That is the joy we have when we put our hope in Jesus.

Sophie:
That's right. And you can have that joy too, just believe in him.

Homeless:
I have three million other gods to choose from. What difference will one more make?

Sophie:
Yes, but those gods are not alive. They can't help you. Only Jesus can help you.

Alex:
Sir, if we can't buy you some food, will you take a Bible?

Sophie:
But, Alex, the Bible is in your grandpa's bag.

Alex:
Aww, man, that's right.

Sophie:
Let's ask around. Maybe someone saw where the thief went.

Homeless:
I know where it is.

Alex:
You do? Why didn't you say anything?

Homeless:
I saw no point.

Alex:
Can you please tell us where?

Homeless:
I could.

Alex:
Thanks.

Homeless:
Or I could not.

Alex:
What?

Homeless:
You see, life will do that. It always keeps you guessing.

Alex:
You don't actually know, do you?

Homeless:
Maybe not. Or maybe I do.

Sophie:
He's just playing games with us, Alex, come on.

Alex:
Look, sir, we know life is unpredictable, bad things happen, but that's exactly the reason we need Jesus, because, the storms of life will come, but when our hope is in him we won't be washed away.

Homeless:
There is only one thing I know that is certain.

Alex:
What's that?

Homeless:
He sells everything to the merchant.

Alex:
What?

Homeless:
The thief. What he steals he sells to the merchant.

Alex:
Oh, oh. Where is the merchant?

Homeless:
Two blocks on the right.

Alex:
Thank you, thank you, sir. You don't know how much this means to us. Come on, Sophie.

Sophie:
Don’t go anywhere. We’ll bring you back a Bible.

Homeless:
Even if I wanted to I have nowhere to go.

Sophie:
Right. Sorry [chuckles]. Wait up, Alex!

(Alex and Sophie exit. Grandpa enters)

Grandpa:
[panting]

Homeless:
That way.

Grandpa:
Thanks [panting].

Grandpa	(male)
Alex	(male)
Sophie	(female)

Act 7 - Conclusion

(Grandpa enters. Alex and Sophie run in behind)

Alex:
Grandpa! We got it, we got it!

Grandpa:
Oh thank God! [exhales] I knew it wasn't free.

Alex:
What?

Grandpa:
Nevermind that. What matters is we got it back. Thank you, kids.

Alex:
Yeah, but we still have to thank the man that helped us find it.

Sophie:
And give him the Bible.

Alex:
Right.

Grandpa:
When did you guys have time to do all that?

Alex:
Always be ready. Right, Grandpa?

Grandpa:
[chuckles] Yes. You guys make me proud.

Sophie:
The problem is, though, I don't see him here anymore.

Alex:
Aww, man.

Sophie:
That's unfortunate.

Alex:
I really thought he might believe.

Sophie:
Yeah, me too.

Grandpa:
Hey, you did what you could.

Sophie:
But he really needed hope. He was so broken.

Alex:
I wonder where he is now.

Grandpa:
Remember, kids, we can't force anyone to believe. Some will accept Him, but, unfortunately, many will not.

Alex:
Yeah, I guess a lot of people don't realize they're dying of thirst.

Grandpa:
Speaking of thirst, did you ever get that water for me?

Alex:
We did, but it fell out while running.

Sophie:
That, and our milkshakes.

Grandpa:
I'm sorry, kids, I guess we can never get too relaxed.

Sophie:
Yep, just like when Alex bought those figs in Israel [chuckles].

Alex:
Hey, I panicked, okay.

Grandpa:
I was wondering what that was. I think they're still in here.

Sophie:
Ewww.

Alex:
That was supposed to be my steak.

Sophie:
It was worth it though. I think you showed a really good example of what Jesus did when you paid for that boy.

Alex:
You think so?

Sophie:
Yeah.

Alex:
Well, I mean, yeah. I kinda just thought of it on the spot and all.

Sophie:
Now don't take it to your head, alright. It wasn't just you. Jesus answered your prayers.

Alex:
You're right, you're right. But too bad the guy didn't understand it.

Sophie:
You never know, maybe he'll get it one day. What matters is that you shared the truth that Jesus is the only way.

Grandpa:
When was this?

Sophie:
Oh, we didn't tell you? Remember when we went looking for that restaurant? Yeah, that happened.

Grandpa:
Hmmm, what else did I miss?

Sophie:
You should've seen Alex in Kenya. Boy was he upset.

Alex:
Hey, let's not talk about that.

Sophie:
But then he got over it. You should've seen how much he did. He practically cooked the whole meal by himself.

Grandpa:
Alex, cooking? Now that's a miracle.

Alex:
Gotta love, you know. I was just doing my duty.

Grandpa:
Good [chuckles].

Sophie:
Oh, yeah, and remember when you fell into that hole in Greenland? Yeah, we had a pretty interesting experience there too.

Grandpa:
Really. You know, I'm surprised I never asked where you got that rope.

Alex:
Oh, some shaman gave it to us.

Grandpa:
A shaman?

Alex:
Yeah, he was doing some kind of prayer ritual to his fish spirit. I told him it was useless, then he gave us the rope.

Sophie:
Hey, that's not what happened.

Alex:
Yeah it was.

Sophie:
No, I told him about praying to God and that he doesn't need to hit those drums to get His attention.

Alex:
Yeah, but that's after I told him it was all useless.

Sophie:
He didn't budge after that. It's only after I told him about the spirit of life.

Alex:
But it wasn't until I told him about the fish in the Bible that he gave us the rope.

Sophie:
That's what you think, but if I didn't tell him-

Grandpa:
Okay, okay. You did it together. Let's not get distracted looking for praise now.

Alex:
Sorry, Grandpa, and I'm still sorry for losing all your money in China.

Grandpa:
It's all in the past now, Alex. What matters is that Jesus still saves. It doesn't matter how much we did wrong. He can still change our ways. We just need faith.

Sophie:
And hope. We trust in his promises.

Grandpa:
That's right. Heaven is waiting for those who believe.

Alex:
I still wonder what happened to that poor man on the street.

Grandpa:
Only God knows, son. Our job is to bring the good news wherever we go, but only Jesus is able to change someone's heart.

Alex:
Yep.

Grandpa:
Well, look at the time. We're gonna miss our flight.

Alex:
Oh, that's right, we're going home today. I completely forgot.

Grandpa:
I mean, we could stay another week if you'd like. There's plenty of work to be done.

Alex:
Umm, we can, but-

Grandpa:
I'm joking [chuckles]. I think we're all ready to go home.

Alex:
Yeah.