A PUPPET PLAY IN ONE ACT

The Order of Melchizedek

Based on Genesis 14:18–20; Hebrews 7 · Written by Carrie Elderberry



SUITABLE FOR
Ages 6 and up

PERFORMANCE TIME
10–12 minutes

CAST SIZE
6 puppets

PROPS REQUIRED
None

MAIN THEME

Names in the Bible carry meaning — and Jesus is called a priest “of the order of Melchizedek” because, like the mysterious king-priest who blessed Abraham centuries earlier, Jesus is the one true high priest who can stand before God on our behalf.

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To print just the play on its own, print pages 5–9.

PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Synopsis

JOSH is proud of his four names; ZEKE is reluctant to admit his own middle name is the tongue-twisting “Melchizedek.” The boys discover that names in the Bible often carry real meaning — Joshua and Jesus both mean “God is salvation” — which sends them to GRAMMA (Ms. Carolyn) for more answers. She uses a Time Machine to bring in ABRAHAM himself, who explains who the original Melchizedek was: a high priest of the most high God, and a preview, two thousand years early, of Jesus' own priesthood. SPARKY the dog chasing KITTY the cat provides comic relief throughout.

Spiritual Concept

Melchizedek appears only briefly in Genesis, blessing Abraham as “priest of God Most High,” but the book of Hebrews later identifies Jesus as a priest “in the order of Melchizedek” — meaning his priesthood isn't inherited through Israel's priestly line, but is unique and eternal, like Melchizedek's own mysterious appearance in Scripture. The play uses the human fascination with names and their meanings to open up this deeper picture of who Jesus is.

Age Suitability

Best for ages 6 and up; the wordplay around names and the Time Machine device with Abraham work well for kids old enough to enjoy a bit of Bible history alongside the comedy.

Performance Time

10–12 minutes

CAST & TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Characters (in order of appearance)

JOSH — An enthusiastic boy, proud of having four names (Joshua Scott Clyde Brown). Learns that his own name, Joshua, means “God is salvation” — the same meaning as “Jesus.”

ZEKE — Josh's friend, a bit more cautious, reluctant to reveal that his full name is Ezekiel Melchizedek Smith. His curiosity about names' meanings drives much of the plot.

KITTY — Zeke's cat. Free to ad-lib with “meow” throughout, and gets chased by Sparky for comic relief.

GRAMMA — Josh's grandmother, a wise woman who goes by Ms. Carolyn. Knows the meanings of names and comes up with the idea to bring Abraham forward in time to explain Melchizedek.

SPARKY — Gramma's dog, who loves to chase cats. Always female (she/her). Provides comic chase scenes with Kitty throughout.

ABRAHAM — Brought forward from Bible times via Gramma's Time Machine. Explains who Melchizedek was and connects him to Jesus' priesthood.

Prop Options

- If space and time permit, have the puppeteers for Sparky and Kitty run out and through the audience for comic breaks, with Josh and Zeke giving chase — per the source's hint.

PERFORMANCE NOTES FOR PUPPETEERS

New to puppets? General prep, technique, and voice tips live at gospelpuppets.org/getting-started.

Character Notes

Zeke's reluctance to share his middle name (“big sigh… Melchizedek”) is the comic hook that opens the whole play — give it a beat before he finally says it.

Abraham's confusion about modern clothes, the Time Machine, and the word “Bible” (a book he's never heard of, since it's about his own life) is a running fish-out-of-water gag — keep his tone amazed and gracious throughout.

Staging

Sparky and Kitty's chase scenes happen twice in the script — use them as scene-break comic relief; the source suggests running them out through the audience if space allows.

The “Time Machine” moment bringing in Abraham can be marked with a sound effect or simple stage business — no specific device is described in the source.

Reading the Script

CAPS = volume/intensity.

Ellipsis (…) = the author's pacing notation.

THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK

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(Enter JOSH and ZEKE and KITTY.)

JOSH: Hey, Zeke! Guess how many NAMES I have?

ZEKE: What do you mean? Your name is just Josh.

JOSH: Nope! My whole name is Joshua Scott Clyde Brown. So I have FOUR names. I have a first name, two middle names, and a last name.

ZEKE: TWO middle names?

JOSH: Yep.

ZEKE: Why do you have TWO?

JOSH: My parents gave them to me. Scott is for one of my grandpas, and Clyde is for one of my GREAT-grandfathers.

ZEKE: *(not too excited)* Well. That is pretty cool.

JOSH: And Brown is my last name. So I have four names! How many names do YOU have?

ZEKE: I don’t have as many as you, THAT’S for sure.

JOSH: Well?

KITTY: Meow!

ZEKE: Kitty just has one name: Kitty. And I never heard of anybody with two middle names before.

JOSH: Zeke! Answer my question!

ZEKE: *(evasively)* Well… I only use two. Ezekiel and Smith.

JOSH: Don’t you even HAVE a middle name? I have two!

ZEKE: Oh, yeah, I think you told me. Several times now…

JOSH: Well?

ZEKE: OK, OK! I do have a middle name. Just one, but it’s enough. And I NEVER use it.

JOSH: Why not? Middle names are so cool!

KITTY: Meow!

ZEKE: She has a middle name: Cat. She is Kitty Cat Smith. But mine is kind of a hard name to say, and it’s REALLY hard to spell.

JOSH: But what is it?

ZEKE: *(big sigh)* Melchizedek.

JOSH: Mel— WHAT?

ZEKE: See? I told you.

JOSH: Wait! Say it again! Mel— what?

ZEKE: Melchizedek.

JOSH: What kind of a name is THAT?

ZEKE: It's a Bible name. My FIRST name is a Bible name too, just like yours. Hey, do you know what all your names MEAN?

JOSH: No! Why?

ZEKE: Well, names can have MEANINGS, too. They aren't always just to honor grandparents. My first name is Ezekiel, which means "strength of God." Zeke is just my nickname.

JOSH: Oh I get it. My parents named me Joshua, and I think it is just a name they really liked. And Scott is for Scotland, and Clyde is a river in Scotland.

ZEKE: Melchizedek is a Bible name that means "king of righteousness."

KITTY: Meow!

JOSH: Golly, that is a tough name to live up to.

ZEKE: You're not kidding!

JOSH: So your full name is Ezekiel Melchizedek Smith?

ZEKE: *(big sigh)* Yep.

JOSH: Why did your parents name you THAT? It sounds like they expect you to be GOD, or something.

ZEKE: Haha! Nope. And anyway your name, Joshua, means "God is salvation." It has the same meaning as "Jesus."

JOSH: What! No way!

ZEKE: Yep. Jesus means "God is salvation," same as "Joshua." And YOU think Ezekiel Melchizedek is a tough name to live up to!

(Enter GRAMMA and SPARKY. SPARKY barks at KITTY, who hisses. SPARKY gets too close and KITTY scratches her nose. SPARKY cries.)

GRAMMA: Now Sparky, that is your own fault. Leave Kitty alone!

JOSH: Gramma! Gramma! Did you know what my name means?

GRAMMA: How about a hug first?

(They hug.)

GRAMMA: And who is this?

JOSH: Oh, sorry! This is my friend Zeke.

ZEKE: Nice to meet you, ma'am.

GRAMMA: Any friend of Josh's is a friend of mine. You can call me Ms. Carolyn.

JOSH: Gramma, why was I named JOSHUA? That is too hard to live up to.

GRAMMA: Let me think… Joshua means "God is salvation" if I remember right.

(SPARKY takes another shot at KITTY, barking and chasing her through the audience. ZEKE and JOSH call after SPARKY to stop, and JOSH gives chase. End back in front with another scratch on the nose and SPARKY crying.)

JOSH: Gramma, Zeke says that Joshua has the same meaning as "Jesus"! No way I can be as good as Jesus!

ZEKE: My name is impossible, too. Ezekiel means "strength of God" but it's too tough for me. I get in trouble almost every day.

GRAMMA: Names are chosen for lots of different reasons. Some parents know the meanings of names, but sometimes they just like the sound of a name. Or sometimes, it's just the name of a grandparent.

JOSH: Oh! Like my two middle names!

ZEKE: Ms. Carolyn, do you know what your name means?

GRAMMA: Yes, it means "free woman." But I would not be free without JESUS! I would still be a slave to sin and death, without Jesus.

JOSH: And it's the same with our names! I can't save myself, only Jesus can save me.

ZEKE: Right. And I couldn't have God's strength without Jesus.

JOSH AND ZEKE: That's a relief! Haha!

JOSH: But Gramma, Zeke's middle name is Melchizedek. Did you ever hear that name before?

GRAMMA: Oh, yes!

ZEKE: Did you know it means "king of righteousness"?

GRAMMA: I did not know that, but it fits.

JOSH: How?

GRAMMA: I have an idea. Let's invite Abraham, from Bible times, to tell us the story of Melchizedek. Can you turn on the Time Machine?

(Turn on Time Machine. Enter ABRAHAM.)

ABRAHAM: Where am I?

GRAMMA: Welcome to the 21st century, Mr. Abraham!

ABRAHAM: What strange clothes you wear. But why am I here?

ZEKE: We brought you across four thousand years of time!

GRAMMA: Please, we want to ask you about Melchizedek.

JOSH: Sir, my friend here is named after Melchizedek.

ABRAHAM: Is that so? Quite an honor for you!

ZEKE: Yes, sir. Ezekiel Melchizedek Smith, at your service.

GRAMMA: We are hoping you can tell us about Melchizedek. We know you met him, because the Bible says so.

ABRAHAM: Who is this Bible-person?

JOSH: Oh, sorry! The Bible is a BOOK! And the story of your life is in it. It's the book about God reaching out to people.

ABRAHAM: Wonderful, wonderful! I hope you appreciate that.

ZEKE: But please, can you tell us about meeting Melchizedek?

ABRAHAM: Oh yes of course. But he wasn't just ANYONE, you know. Melchizedek was a high priest, of the most high God.

JOSH: Please… what is a priest?

ABRAHAM: A priest is a man who talks to God for us. He also gives special gifts to God, called sacrifices, that cover our sins. The high priest is the ONLY one who can stand before the holiness of God.

ZEKE: But, sir, we need to tell you about Jesus.

ABRAHAM: I believe that your Bible will say that the Savior of the human race will be a high priest, of the order of Melchizedek.

ZEKE AND JOSH: Let's tell Abraham about Jesus!

GRAMMA: The Savior, Jesus, took on the form of a man, about TWO thousand years ago—

ABRAHAM: Yes! And God gave us a "preview" with Melchizedek, about two thousand years before THAT! A high priest of the most high God.

ZEKE: Mr. Abraham, aren't you glad you are in this puppet show? You got to meet the first Melchizedek—

JOSH: And you got to travel in a Time Machine, and you got to hear about the Bible, and about Jesus!

ABRAHAM: The Lord works in mysterious ways.

(SPARKY goes after KITTY again. This time both boys chase them through the audience, calling "Sparky!" Finish back on stage.)

ABRAHAM: That dog isn't too smart.

GRAMMA: Sir, before we finish, can you tell us what YOUR name, Abraham, means? We have been thinking a lot about the meaning of names today.

ABRAHAM: Why of course. Abraham means "God the Father is exalted." Exalted means gloriously lifted up. I have been given a very great gift today, to find that my God is also your God! And even four THOUSAND years later, He is still honored as the most high God.

ZEKE: Yes! God is our strength!

JOSH: God is salvation!

GRAMMA: We are free in Jesus!

JOSH: And "Sparky" means sparky, and Kitty means a cat!

SPARKY: Arf!

KITTY: Meow!

ALL: Jesus is the king of righteousness, and our high priest, of the order of Melchizedek. You can read more about that in the Bible, in the book of Hebrews. That's all for today!

THE END

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

Discussion Questions

1. Do you know what your own names mean? Do you know why you were given them?
2. Zeke's names, "strength of God" and "king of righteousness," felt impossible to live up to. Why did Gramma say that's actually a relief, not a burden?
3. What is a priest, and why could the high priest be the only one to stand before God's holiness?
4. How is Jesus like Melchizedek?
5. Abraham said "the Lord works in mysterious ways" after meeting Josh and Zeke. Can you think of a time God surprised you?

Related Bible Passages

Primary Text: Genesis 14:18–20 — Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of God Most High, blesses Abraham after his victory in battle. (Summarized.)

Additional Scripture:

- Hebrews 7:1–3, 17 — Melchizedek, without recorded beginning or end, is a picture of the eternal priesthood of Jesus, who is declared “a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.” (Full passage — reference only.)
- Hebrews 4:14–16 — Jesus, our great high priest, allows us to approach God's throne with confidence to receive mercy and grace. (Summarized.)

Song Suggestions

- “Before the Throne of God Above” — Selah — https://open.spotify.com/track/2puVTObsvViyanAuNLNlHN
- “His Name Is Wonderful” — The Brentwood Singers — https://open.spotify.com/track/3fq0Pc0PhObfu58DvfSMkI

Ministry Context

A fun fit for a series on the names and titles of Jesus, or on identity and meaning. The names-and-meanings hook works well for a Sunday near a baby dedication or naming ceremony, and gives families a natural conversation starter about their own children's names.