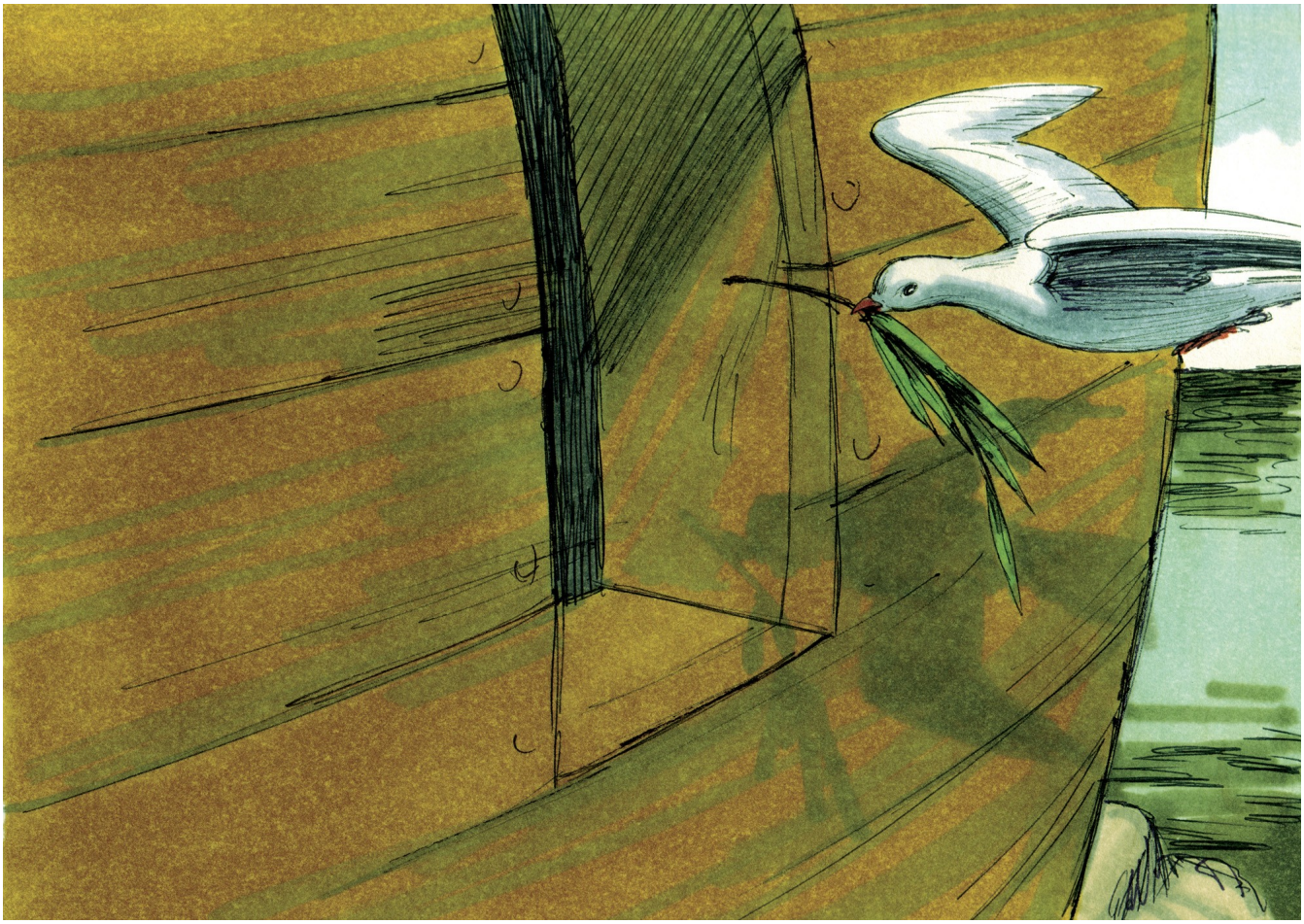
A PUPPET PLAY IN ONE ACT

The Raven and the Dove

Based on Genesis 6–9; 1 Peter 3:18–21 · Written by Carrie Elderberry



SUITABLE FOR
Ages 6 and up

PERFORMANCE TIME
10–12 minutes

CAST SIZE
5 puppets

PROPS REQUIRED
None

MAIN THEME

Baptism pictures being saved through judgment into a new life — just as Noah's family passed through the flood waters into a fresh start, and just as all creation still waits, patiently, for that new life to be made complete.

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

PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Synopsis

GIRL is angry about the story of Noah's ark — she can't get past how many creatures drowned, and doesn't see the point, which is making her reconsider getting baptized. BOY suggests they watch a scene play out between MR. RAVEN, MRS. RAVEN, and DOVE, waiting out the flood's last days aboard the ark. Listening to the birds talk about waiting for dry land — and for the day God will make people new “from the inside out” — helps GIRL see baptism not as pretending to be perfect, but as being saved through water into a new life she still has to choose, day by day, with God's help.

Spiritual Concept

1 Peter 3 draws a direct line between Noah's family being saved through the flood waters and baptism saving us today — not by washing dirt off the body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. The birds' patient waiting for dry land pictures the whole creation “waiting with eager hope” (Romans 8) for the new life Jesus makes possible. This play doesn't shy away from the flood's tragedy — it takes GIRL's anger seriously rather than rushing past it to the rainbow.

Age Suitability

Best for ages 6 and up; GIRL's honest anger about the flood's death toll, and the deeper conversation about baptism, are suited to kids old enough to sit with a hard question rather than a tidy answer.

Performance Time

10–12 minutes

CAST & TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Characters (in order of appearance)

GIRL — Planning to get baptized soon, but wrestling with real anger about the story of Noah's flood — doesn't see how it “fixed” anything, since the people who survived kept sinning.

BOY — Got baptized last year. Doesn't have all the answers but suggests watching the raven-and-dove scene to help GIRL think it through.

MR. RAVEN — From the ark. Has been flying back and forth checking for dry land — and, per his wife, enjoying the abundant “free food” floating in the flood's wake.

MRS. RAVEN — From the ark. Fed up with life aboard ship and a little jealous of her husband's outings. Doubts people have really learned their lesson.

DOVE — From the ark. Patient and a bit more hopeful than the ravens — knows her turn is coming next, to check whether the trees have recovered.

Prop Options

- Other animal puppets may observe the ark scene silently in the background, per the source's note.

PERFORMANCE NOTES FOR PUPPETEERS

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

Character Notes

GIRL's anger at the start is real, not a misunderstanding to be corrected quickly — the source's own hint says to “be prepared to listen and respond honestly” rather than rushing to the rainbow.

Noah himself does not appear in this play — the focus stays on the birds and on GIRL and BOY's conversation.

Staging

A fun way to include more people, especially pre-readers eager to help, is to have a hand-held “curtain” ready for the scene

change. Helpers can run up and screen the center stage for a moment while chimes are rung and the puppets switch places.

BOY and GIRL physically move to a corner of the stage to “watch” the raven-and-dove scene, which plays as a show-within-the-show — GIRL's own line jokes about “puppets watching a puppet show.”

DOVE's brief false-start entrance early in the play (before her scripted turn) is a scripted bit, not an error — keep it.

Reading the Script

CAPS = volume/intensity.

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

THE RAVEN AND THE DOVE

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(Enter GIRL and BOY. They greet each other and the audience.)

BOY: Is everybody ready for the puppet show?

GIRL: Well… to be honest I'm feeling really angry today!

BOY: Why?

GIRL: I've been thinking about Noah, and the Flood, and about getting baptized.

BOY: I got baptized last year. What is wrong with that?

GIRL: I was going to get baptized, but now I am not so sure. I keep feeling so angry… at God!

BOY: Wait, you have to back up. What is making you mad?

GIRL: Well, you know that story, of Noah and the ark? I've heard it about a billion times.

BOY: A billion, huh?

GIRL: Well, maybe only a million. Anyway, I am sick of it!

BOY: But it's a favorite story! The rainbow, and the dove…

(Enter DOVE.)

DOVE: Did I hear someone mention doves?

BOY: Yes, but it is not your turn yet. You have to wait until we go to the side of the stage.

GIRL: THEN you come out. Look at your script.

DOVE: Oh, right. I forgot. OK, good-bye!

(Exit DOVE.)

BOY: Where was I? Um… the rainbow! Yes! And the animals, two by two! Noah and the ark is a favorite Bible story!

GIRL: Well I hate it! It makes me so MAD.

BOY: Why?

GIRL: Did you never think, about how many babies were drowned? And puppies, and bunnies, and kittens? Arg!

BOY: Actually, no, I never did.

GIRL: And besides, what good did it really do?

BOY: You mean the Big Flood?

GIRL: Yes.

BOY: All the bad people were wiped out.

GIRL: Were they? Those eight people who were saved by the ark, from the flood, turned out to be just as rotten as people were before. It didn't really fix anything.

BOY: Oh, right. I see what you mean.

GIRL: So! I do not see what good any of it was!

BOY: Hmm…

GIRL: And so, I do not see what good being baptized will do, either!

BOY: The pastor says that the picture of baptism is that we are dying to our old life and being raised to a new one.

GIRL: That's exactly what I don't understand. I can still be JUST as bad!

BOY: Hmm… wait! I have an idea.

GIRL: What?

BOY: There are some other puppets that can help explain.

GIRL: Really? OK. I guess…

BOY: And we can watch them from a corner of the stage.

GIRL: Ha ha! Puppets watching a puppet show! OK.

(BOY and GIRL move to a corner. Enter DOVE and MRS. RAVEN.)

MRS. RAVEN: I am so sick and tired of this ark!

DOVE: It HAS been a long time, Mrs. Raven.

MRS. RAVEN: Just about a year! It STINKS. Pee-ew.

DOVE: Things are finally happening, though!

MRS. RAVEN: Noah sent Mr. Raven out again, today.

DOVE: Yes. He has been flying back and forth over the water.

MRS. RAVEN: Day after day, off he goes! I am MORE than a little jealous.

DOVE: Mr. Noah says, that Mr. Raven will find out for us, when the waters have dried up enough from the land.

MRS. RAVEN: WELL! I suspect, my husband is just using that, as an excuse to stay AWAY all day!

DOVE: Look— here he comes!

(Enter MR. RAVEN.)

MR. RAVEN: Well, hello ladies! Beautiful evening, ain't it?

MRS. RAVEN: About TIME you came home!

MR. RAVEN: Ah, but you are forgetting, dear! This ark is NOT our home!

DOVE: What do you mean, Mr. Raven?

MR. RAVEN: This ARK was just a safe place, to save us from the Big Flood.

DOVE: Right. And the Flood is NEARLY over.

MR. RAVEN: I have been flying back and forth, over the water…

MRS. RAVEN: Yes, having a LOVELY time, while we sit here, in all this stinking filth.

MR. RAVEN: Darling, I know it has been hard on you. But I have GOOD NEWS!

DOVE AND MRS. RAVEN: Tell us, please!

MR. RAVEN: The flood waters are finally drying up! I saw dry land today. Honey, we can go make a proper home soon.

MRS. RAVEN: That is what Mr. Noah has been waiting for.

DOVE: Yes. And oh! I think it will be my turn to go out tomorrow!

MR. RAVEN: Your turn? What do you mean?

DOVE: You'll see!

MRS. RAVEN: Ahem! I think it should be MY turn, after all this time.

DOVE: But if you think about it, ravens and doves look for VERY different things, when they are flying.

MRS. RAVEN: True. We prefer things that are DEAD.

MR. RAVEN: And after that flood, there has been a lot of free food, just floating about! Yum!

DOVE: OK, OK, enough about that. Let's talk about what DOVES eat, instead.

MRS. RAVEN: Why? What do YOU prefer to eat?

DOVE: We eat SEEDS, and fruit, and sometimes a bug or two.

MR. RAVEN: Pretty picky, aren't you?

DOVE: Yes. But that is why Noah sent you out, FIRST. He will send ME out, now, to see if the TREES have recovered. Then there will be food and shelter for everyone.

MRS. RAVEN: WELL! I just hope those silly humans have learned their lesson!

DOVE: Yes, what a terrible thing the Flood has been.

MR. RAVEN: Eight of them were saved in this ark, saved through the flood waters, to start a new life. But will they change?

MRS. RAVEN: I DOUBT it. I am afraid we will have to wait for the time that God makes people new, from the inside out.

DOVE: Yes! When they are adopted as God's children.

MR. RAVEN: That will be worth waiting for!

MRS. RAVEN: Speaking of children, it's time for those two children to be coming back, to finish the play.

DOVE: Yes. Time to go!

(Exit DOVE, MR. RAVEN, and MRS. RAVEN. Enter GIRL and BOY.)

GIRL: I never thought about the ANIMALS waiting for Jesus.

BOY: Yes, the Bible says that all of the creation is being very patient.

GIRL: Well, if they can be, I guess I can too.

BOY: Sure! And while we wait, we can enjoy a new life right now.

GIRL: That's true! Jesus does promise to help us to obey him.

BOY: Do you understand why the Flood happened, now?

GIRL: Yes, I think so. And I understand, that it is a picture for us, about getting baptized too.

BOY: Saved through water, for a new life.

GIRL: But we still must CHOOSE, to follow God, every day.

BOY: And he helps us, if we ask him.

GIRL: Yes. Jesus will give us his Holy Spirit, if we ask him!

BOY: That is something Noah, and his family, did not know, yet.

GIRL: No. They were still looking forward, to a savior coming, to end evil and death.

BOY: Yes. And the whole creation, too!

GIRL: *(turn to back stage)* Would you animals all like to come out for the ending?

(Enter DOVE and both RAVENS. Be noisy!)

ALL: You can read more about baptism and the Great Flood in the Bible in Peter’s 1st letter, Chapter 3.

MRS. RAVEN: The part about the raven and the dove is in Genesis, Chapter 8!

ALL: Goodbye!

THE END

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

Discussion Questions

1. GIRL was angry about the Flood story. Have you ever felt angry or worried about something in the Bible? What helped (or would help) you work through it?
2. MRS. RAVEN doubted the eight survivors had really changed. What did she say we're still waiting for?
3. How is baptism like passing through the flood waters, into a new life?
4. The Bible says all of creation is "waiting patiently" for Jesus. What do you think that means?
5. GIRL said we still have to CHOOSE to follow God every day, even after baptism. Why do you think that choosing matters?

Related Bible Passages

Primary Text: 1 Peter 3:18–21 — Peter connects Noah's family being saved through the flood waters to baptism saving us today, “not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience.” (NLT)

Additional Scripture:

- Genesis 8:6–12 — Noah sends out the raven and then the dove to test whether the flood waters have receded. (Full account — reference only.)
- Romans 8:19–21 — “All creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are.” (NLT, condensed)

Song Suggestions

- “I Am a New Creation” — Dave Bilbrough — https://open.spotify.com/track/2amxGK16XZzx50RQdfsAwb
- “What an Awesome God” — Phil Wickham — https://open.spotify.com/track/6SZY2dHMtwnjqWQdk3EpSv

Ministry Context

Well suited to a baptism Sunday or a series on new life in Christ. Because this play takes GIRL's hard question about the Flood seriously rather than rushing past it, it can also open the door to real conversation with kids who've had similar doubts — have a leader ready to talk further after the performance.