

**9 FUN AND EXCITING DRAMAS EXPLORING FAITH FROM JOHN'S GOSPEL**



# **PROJECT:PORTAL**

**ROCK, PEPPER AND CAESAR GET SUCKED INTO  
A PORTAL, AND HAVE TO JUMP FROM PLACE TO PLACE  
IN ORDER TO FIND HOME.**





## Introduction

In here you'll find 9 dramas that help unpack the themes in the stories of John's Gospel. They are designed to be a platform for leaders to draw from – a shared adventure that the kids watching can go through.

You'll find Bible references and extra help at the start of each episode, and hopefully they'll help you look at the actual passage from John, and pull together a brilliant message each time.

Ideal for a Beach Mission or holiday club, but also a good resource for 9 months of monthly family services or something brilliant like that.

Hope you like them.

Rev Alex Brown.

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# EPISODE 1

## THE WATER INTO WINE

### QUICK LEADER'S OVERVIEW:

**SCRIPTURE INSPIRATION: JOHN 2.1-12 | JESUS TURNS WATER INTO WINE**

**THIS EPISODE IS BASED ON THE WATER INTO WINE STORY, AND ALSO DRAWS INSPIRATION FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT ACCOUNT OF MOSES' FIRST MIRACLE WITH PHARAOH (TURNING THE WATER INTO BLOOD). JESUS' MIRACLE SEEMS TO 'REVERSE' THE MOSES MIRACLE, BUT ALSO CARRIES OVERTONES OF THE ABUNDANCE OF GOD AND HOW GOD WANTS TO CLEANSE ALL BELIEVERS FROM THEIR SIN, WITHIN THEM.**

**THE 6 STONE WATER JARS USED IN THE MIRACLE NEEDED TO BE FILLED WITH 'LIVING WATER', WHICH WAS WHAT THE JEWS USED FOR RITUAL CLEANSING. THIS COULD ONLY BE FOUND FROM A FRESH SOURCE (A SPRING, RAIN WATER) NOT STATIC WATER (A WELL). IT WAS TERMED 'LIVING WATER' AS USING IT BROUGHT SPIRITUAL CLEANSING AND THEREFORE SPIRITUAL LIFE. JESUS TURNS GALLONS AND GALLONS OF THIS WATER FOR RITUAL CLEANSING INTO GALLONS AND GALLONS OF ALREADY AGED WINE, THE BEST EVER TASTED, AND THAT SEEMED TO NOT RUN OUT.**

### THE SCRIPT:

**Narrator:** Welcome to the most exciting drama that has ever been written in the history of history, and before that too.

**PROJECT PORTAL!** [all leaders makes a triumphant noise of some kind]. Our story begins with Pepper - an up-beat, nothing-gets-her-down kind of teenager whose glass is always half full and ... well, that's who Pepper might be one day. [Dramatically] **BUT IT IS NOT THIS DAY!** Here comes Pepper now, walking her dog Caesar!

[Enter Pepper, with Caesar (who's like a real dog at the moment, as in the actor is on all fours)]

**Pepper:** Oh for goodness sake Caesar, come on! It's bad enough that I have to even walk you. I'm losing my streak on Duo-Lingo here trying to learn the ancient Spanish art of

Flamenco-Fighting. Well, at least my new journal has arrived. Ahh – new stationary.

[Caesar sniffs at something]

Pepper: What are you even sniffing at Caesar? Urgh! Dogs are so boring. What is it? I mean, if I didn't know better, I'd say it looked like a mysterious time and space portal that could totally suck us into another dimension, leading to a crazy 9-episode adventure or something, but that'd be crazy.

[they both get sucked into the portal]

Narrator: And suddenly and almost unexpectedly, Pepper and her dog Caesar got sucked into a mysterious time and space portal. Where they landed, they did ... not ... know.

[They totally land in heroic style ... Caesar is now a human-dog]

Pepper: We've landed, [looks around] but I have no idea where we are.

Caesar: Nor do I!

Pepper: Caesar – you can talk!

Caesar: Actually I've always been able to talk, you've just never been able to understand me Pepper.

Pepper: And you're a human ... kind of.

Caesar: Same to you.

[in runs Rock, and bumps into them both]

Pepper: Hey watch your step!

Caesar: [growls] want me to rip him into tiny dog-sized meaty chunks as your fierce protector?

Rock: [screams] Don't hurt me! ... wait ... it's you! Pepper – you're here! Just as you said!

Pepper: As I said? You've ...

Rock and Pepper: GOT ME CONFUSED WITH SOMEONE ELSE

Caesar: Well that was creepy.

Rock: Pepper – I’m Rock – you literally just met me and told me that I needed to get everything for the backpack so that I could save your lives and get you back to the land of Seagulls where you come from.

Pepper: I’m gonna call the police

Rock: Wait – I can prove it ... your worst fear is being thrown into a bath full of mouldy tomatoes whilst wearing a unicorn onesie ... in Spain ... and that’s why you’re taking Flamenco-Fighting lessons.

Pepper: That could be anyone’s greatest fear.

Caesar: no that’s pretty specific Pepper, and he smells of adventure mixed with Lynx Spray and a cold ham. I think we should trust him.

Pepper: I’m just getting used to the fact that you can talk okay.

Rock: Listen [whips out the VERY SAME JOURNAL that Pepper has got, and opens it to a random page] Where are you at the moment on your epic voyage of discovery? This is the first place, right?

Pepper and Caesar: yes

Rock: Right – so that means [looks thru the diary] that any moment now there’s going to be a flood of deadly shark-infested custard coming down the street right there [points]

Caesar: As a dog, I have a very good sense for danger, and there’s nothing I can ... wait ... wait ...

[A couple of leaders holding a yellow sheet begin to move through the audience toward the front]

Rock: [screams] THE SHARK-INFESTED CUSTARD!

Pepper: [panicking] Why is there Shark-infested custard coming toward us?

Rock: I HATE CUSTARD

Caesar: I’m not keen on getting eaten by sharks either!

Rock: I FORGOT THERE WOULD ALSO BE SHARKS!

Pepper: What do we do?

[They all go into slow-motion on the stage]

Narrator: But Rock knew what to do, because he had Pepper's Journal! He threw off his backpack in a heroic manner, plunged his brave hand into it's depths, and pulled out a giant space-gun that resembled a water pistol. Without flinching, he used his full manly warrior cry and...

Rock: [screaming like a baby] The journal says to squirt this water into the custard and the sharks will swim away ... but I am 100% terrified of water and guns as well as custard and sharks!

Pepper: Oh give it to me for goodness sake.

[She squirts the water pistol into the audience and also at the leaders with the custard ... they reverse the custard-sheet (yellow) and on the other side is a red sheet instead]

Caesar: Look – look – wonder of wonders! A miracle has occurred among us! The shark-infested custard has transformed before us ... using my enhanced sense of smell, I can tell you that it is now ... a sea of tomatoes!

Pepper: [screams] TOMATOES!

Caesar: wait – no, it's jam. Delicious jam.

Pepper: And there's so much of it – more than we could ever need or eat! An abundance!

Caesar and Rock: An abundance!

Caesar: SQUIRREL!

Rock: [triumphant] with no sharks! Okay, it's time to level with you both. I need to tell you ... the full truth.

Caesar: Is it that you're not actually heroic?

Pepper: Is it that I'm the one who did the saving?

Rock: No, neither of those things ... well ... maybe ... but no – these worlds you need to cross to get home again ... they aren't ... out there ... they're [points to his head] "In here"

Caesar: We're in your hair? Like a sheep tic?

Pepper: Or like a fly who got caught in your hair-product?

Rock: No – we're in your mind. That shark-infested custard was the wrong thoughts and actions inside you ... this water pistol transformed that into something uber delici-oso

Pepper: I don't think you should speak like that

Rock: Come – I can show you where the next portal is to jump through ... it's all in here! In this ... the gerbil of density

Caesar: I think you mean the journal of destiny?

Rock: Quick – it's there! The next one is there! Hurry! Like the heroes we are!!

Narrator: And with that, they ran stage right ... no, stage left ... and jumped into a second whirling portal ... where would they land this time in pepper's mind and soul? FIND OUT NEXT TIME ON ... PROJECT PORTAL: [All leaders make a triumphant noise]



## EPISODE 2

# FEEDING THE 5000

### QUICK LEADER'S OVERVIEW:

SCRIPTURE INSPIRATION: JOHN 6.3-14 | JESUS FEEDS THE 5000

THIS EPISODE IS BASED ON THE FEEDING OF THE 5000 STORY.

THE CROWDS HAD COME TO JESUS BECAUSE THEY WERE HUNGRY SPIRITUALLY MORE THAN THAT THEY WERE HUNGRY PHYSICALLY, BUT JESUS MIRACULOUSLY FED THEM FROM ONE BOY'S PACKED LUNCH, AND CLAIMED HE'D ALSO COME TO BE THE 'BREAD OF LIFE' - THAT HE WOULD SATISFY OUR SPIRITUAL HUNGER ABUNDANTLY!

SO THAT'S BASICALLY IN HERE. JESUS IS WHAT WE'RE ACTUALLY TRULY LOOKING FOR, AND HE NEVER DISAPPOINTS AND NEVER RUNS OUT. THE LITTLE WE COME TO HIM WITH, HE TRANSFORMS INTO EVERYTHING WE NEED.

### THE SCRIPT:

Narrator: Welcome to the most exciting drama that has ever been written in the history of history, and before that too.

PROJECT PORTAL! [all leaders makes a triumphant noise of some kind]. Our story continues as teenager Pepper, her dog-human, Caesar, and terrified-hero Rock travel around inside Pepper's mind.

[The three land heroically and then stand up, looking around]

Pepper: You said that all this was like totally in my head, but I don't recognise this place - its like an old broken down ruined castle, with terrible writing on the walls ... it's so sad!

Rock: Yes - I'm feeling the sadness right now in my heart.

Pepper: no, I mean it's sad like pathetic. Who would write all this rubbish about themselves and their needs!

Caesar: Well, in fairness, you're no ray of sunshine as my human.

Pepper: What's that supposed to mean?

Caesar: Remember when I was a puppy and I would bring you your slippers each morning? You refused to wear them.

Pepper: they were covered in your dog slobber.

Caesar: And remember when I used to go into the front garden and make you little presents to pick up? You never collected them!

Pepper: They were your dog poops and that is not my idea of a present

Caesar: And remember...

Rock: Caesar – Pepper – Look at the writing on the walls – it's making me so super, super sad for you Pepper! Do you mean all this?

Pepper: What do you mean?

Caesar: Well, there's one over there about a guy called Harry Boisonberry? Something about how he's chosen your friend Janice Weedle over you for the Y5 disco?

Rock: And over here – you sat with your hand up in class for 10 minutes and the teacher never asked you once what you thought – you've written underneath it, "I JUST WANT TO BE SEEN – SEEN I TELL YOU ... SEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEN"

Pepper: I don't think we need to read any more of these out.

Caesar: Look this is the worst one yet! You don't know if you're even important! You wrote here "I think I'm here by accident on the planet" that's so sad!

Rock: OH no ... Pepper ... this is getting really bad ... really, really bad

Pepper: What now cry baby?

Caesar: He's right Pepper – I smell danger ... I can't stop crying, and look ... the castle ... it's filling up with our tears!

Narrator: And it was indeed! The three heroes suddenly noticed that a large blue sheet had come onto the stage which was

representing the water level of their tears, and it was rising, and rising DANGEROUSLY.

[As the water keeps rising they get more and more and more urgent and desperate in their lines and acting]

All 3: Oh no, the water level from our tears is rising and rising dangerously!

Rock: There's only one thing for it – we will have to quickly form a synchronised swimming troupe and turn our frowns upside down through the medium of swim-dance

Caesar: We can't do that ... we have no music

Rock: WE CAN USE THE MUSIC IN OUR HEARTS

Caesar: SHE HAS NO MUSIC IN HER HEART!

Pepper: We need something super-super absorbent

Rock: Like a babies nappy with a one-way-top-weave-dry-layer-weave thing?

Pepper: WE DON'T HAVE A NAPPY – WE DON'T HAVE A NAPPY – WE DON'T HAVE A NAPPY

Caesar: How about I swim about beneath the water and try to find a plug of some kind.

Pepper: YES YES – DO DO THAT.

Caesar & Rock: [splutter and giggle] – You said Doo-doo.

[Caesar goes under the water, out of sight]

Rock: Pepper – if this is the last moment of our lives, I want you to know that I have loved you ...

Caesar: THERE'S NO PLUG – THERE'S NO PLUG – THERE'S NO PLUG. ...wait - What were you saying?

Rock: Nothing.

Pepper: wait – last time the answer was in that journal of destiny ... did it say anything about this?

Rock: I don't know – let me have a quick look while I pretend to swim ... [gets it out] ... YES – it says that in the backpack I

should put a tiny-tiny super-absorbent cloth that will suck up all these tears of your sadness before they engulf us in our own sadness

[there's a pause while they all swim about in the tears, now really up to their shoulders. Rock looks super proud of himself, and the others just look at him expectantly]

Caesar: well?

Rock: Oh yes – the tiny-tiny cloth.

[He holds his backpack up above the water]

Pepper: I think I can see it in there – let me pull it out.

[What actually comes out of the backpack is the largest colourful parachute you can possibly muster. As it comes out, the three characters shout stuff like, “it’s growing” and “it’s a miracle” and “look- it’s absorbing all the water”. Eventually, the parachute wraps around all the ‘water’ and the water-volunteers scoot it off stage]

Caesar: Well – I mean I once had a dream where I was flying through the air, chasing seagulls, dressed as a pirate ... but what just happened there – more weird than that.

Pepper: And I once had a dream where I was a hotdog – but what happened there – more weird.

Rock: Sometimes I want to be born in the dark ages and live half-naked in a cave as a man called Schnubel Zip-Zip

Pepper: That was probably an overshare

Rock: But look – the tiny-tiny absorbent cloth that we brought with us, it turned into the hugest absorbent cloth known to humanity – bigger than the biggest working water-wheel in the world ... and it absorbed all the sadness and tears ...

Caesar: Half of the words from your walls of crumbling sadness have gone.

Rock: The words that mark the loneliness and despair of her life?  
– The words that scribbled the brokenness and the...

Pepper: Okay Guys – we get it, let’s move on!

Caesar: They're gone Pepper – wonder of wonders – a miracle has occurred among us!

Rock: I knew it – it's all in the Gerbil of Density

Both: Journal of Destiny!

Rock: That's what I said ... and the Gerbil says it's time to move on into the next portal!

Pepper: Let me see that

Rock: No – no one can know too much about their own destiny – basic time-travel mythology rules – everyone knows that.

Narrator: And with that, they ran to the back ... no, sorry to the front, and jumped into a third whirling portal ... where would they land this time in Pepper's mind and soul? FIND OUT NEXT TIME ON ... PROJECT PORTAL! [All leaders make a triumphant noise]



## EPISODE 3

# HEALING A MAN BORN BLIND

### QUICK LEADER'S OVERVIEW:

**SCRIPTURE INSPIRATION: JOHN 9.1-11 [OR 1-34] | THE MAN BORN BLIND AND THE COMEDY COURT CASE THAT ENSUES WITH UN-HILARIOUS CONSEQUENCES**

**THIS EPISODE IS BASED ON THE HEALING OF THE MAN BORN BLIND STORY.**

**JESUS HEALS A MAN BORN BLIND, AND THE 'RELIGIOUS LEADERS' ARE SUPER ANGRY ABOUT IT, AND THEY DRAG HIM INTO COURT (BECAUSE IT HAPPENED ON A SABBATH) TO TRY TO GET HIM TO SAY EVIL STUFF ABOUT JESUS. THEY COME OFF BADLY. NOTABLY, JESUS DOES THE MIRACLE BY MAKING MUD FROM HIS OWN SPIT AND WIPING IT ON THE DUDE'S FACE. THIS IS A DELIBERATE REFERENCE TO GENESIS 2, WHERE GOD MAKES HUMANS FROM MUD. JOHN'S GOSPEL ALSO LINKS IT TO SPIRITUAL SIGHT, AND JESUS MAKES THE CLAIM THAT HE'S THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD - IN OTHER WORDS, COME TO HIM AND YOU CAN SEE STUFF CLEARLY.**

**SO THAT'S BASICALLY IN HERE. SOMETIMES WE CAN'T SEE WHO GOD IS, OR WHO WE ARE, AND IF WE COME TO JESUS IT'S LIKE HE GIVES US NEW SIGHT, AND RE-CREATES US, ABLE TO KNOW AND SEE HIM.**

### THE SCRIPT:

**Narrator: Welcome to the most exciting drama that has ever been written in the history of history, and before that too.**

**PROJECT PORTAL! [all leaders makes a triumphant noise of some kind]. Our story continues as teenager Pepper, her dog-human, Caesar, and terrified-hero Rock travel around inside Pepper's mind.**

**[The three land heroically and then stand up, looking around, but in this episode they all have 'blindfolds' over their eyes.**

**Note to Cast – use cloth that you can see thru]**

**Pepper: So this is all in my mind, right ... then why is it so incredibly dark in here? Where are we?**

Rock: I can't see stuff too – it's making me just a little scared guys, and I never get scared.

Pepper: no, never, where are you? [hits him as she looks]

Caesar: I can probably sniff you out, but really Pepper, you should put some lights on in this room. [he hits them both]

Pepper: Why would I have a room inside my mind that's just pitch black? It doesn't make sense – we're all going to die!

Caesar: That's a bit of a leap, don't you think? Just because we can't see?

Pepper: What if we fall into a pit? How can blind people guide other blind people? We'll fall into a pit! A pit I tell you!

Caesar: What, like an armpit?

Pepper: No – a pit with booby traps and snakes and spikes probably knowing my luck!

Caesar: Do you think that there's anything in the journal of destiny about this room?

Rock: Well there might be, strange dog-man, but there's just one tiny little problem with your suggestion – HOW AM I MEANT TO READ A GERBIL OF DENSITY, WHEN NONE OF US CAN SEE ANYTHING AND WE'RE ABOUT TO FALL INTO A PIT WITH SPIKES AND SNAKES?

Pepper: To be clear, Rock, I did only make up the pit, it's probably not here.

Caesar: No – in this darkness there could be something much worse, like a Backson, or a Gruffalo, or a [a leader's name]

Rock: I don't know if you're trying to make things any better, but you aren't - you're just INDUCING A PANIC ATTACK

Pepper: Wait – wait a minute ... listen ... can you feel something on your face?

[They all grope about on their faces]

Caesar: She's right! She's right! I'm super handsome with a deliciously heroic side-profile.

Rock: I think she might mean the thing that is the same about all of us Caesar – we're all facing the front!

Pepper: No guys – no – we've all got these weird blindfolds on us! It's like a mysterious barrier to helping us see.

Caesar: Well then the obvious thing is to take them off, isn't it!

Narrator: And it was indeed! The three heroes all tried to take off their blindfolds ... but to no avail! Their blindfolds would not come off at all – it was a disaster of gargantuan proportions.

All 3: Oh no, we can't take our blindfolds off – it's a disaster of gargantuan proportions!

Rock: Let me try to take yours off Caesar, I'm super strong and muscly, and that might help.

Caesar: Didn't help you with your own mask, but go ahead.

[Rock heaves and heaves, and suddenly, Caesar's comes off]

Rock: Not gonna lie – didn't think that'd work.

Caesar: Well let me try yours – as a dog I am surprisingly agile.

[He tries, and Rock's comes off straight away]

Rock: Want us to try getting yours off Pepper?

Pepper: Yes Do, do!

Caesar and Rock: [giggle] you said doo-doo

[They both tug and pull at her head in various comedic directions and nothing is working.]

Rock: Well – looks like you're going to stay blind to the deeper realities of the universe and your inner mind for the rest of your days. I will protect you. I will swear on my honour to be there for you day and night, on sea or land - ...

Pepper: ROCK – Is there not anything in that book? Now that YOU can see, surely you can have a read?

Caesar: The answer just has to be in there – it's just got to be!

[Rock gets the book out of his backpack]

Rock: Aha! The Gerbil of Density.

Pepper and Caesar: Journal of Destiny

Rock: It says here – when we get to the darkest room (I think that might be this one), the only way for you to be given true sight is by re-creating your eyes, like God made humans.

Caesar: Well that's nice and clear then! What are we meant to weave her together inside her mother's womb? NOT GONNA HAPPEN!

Rock: Hmm. Well also in this backpack I was instructed to get a Tupperware container that contains a healthy dollop of primordial mud-ooze. [gets it out ... it's a medium-sized container of chocolate angel-delight]

Pepper: I don't think we should use that. It doesn't sound like something God would do.

Caesar: [opening it] but it smells like doggie heaven – this is made of rotten leaves and bugs, all seemingly squished and decomposed into glorious mud. Can I roll in it? Can I?

Rock: You know, this is not ringing any bells for me. I'm searching my memory palace and there's just a load of empty rooms up there.

Pepper: Then maybe this is it for me – maybe I just need to live, spiritually and physically blind for the rest of my life. You know, when I was but a small girl on a farm in West Bromsgrove, I dreamt that one day...

Caesar: Wait – I've got it! IN Genesis 2 in the Bible, God makes humanity out of mud! He literally forms a man out of the mud and breathes his life into it and the man comes alive. WE SHOULD DO THAT!

Pepper: I AM NO MAN!

Rock: Don't you want us to smear this primordial ooze over your face then?

Pepper: I do not.

Rock: SO you want to remain blind?

Caesar: Okay – if you said to me that I could roll in a pile of mud and be able to gain another sense – I’d say yes.

Pepper: Caesar – you’re a dog!

Caesar: SQUIRREL!

Rock: Look – Don’t worry, we won’t splat this disgusting primordial gloop over your face – but you do seem to have a little of your lunch on your cheek – could we ... wipe it off?

Caesar: Yeah ... could we wipe it off? I’ll hold your head still, [Caesar holds her head from behind while Rock gets in position to splat her eyes with the mud] ... and Rock can get the lovely clean baby-wipe.

Rock: Yeah ... the lovely clean baby-wipe.

Pepper: You’re going to splat me aren’t you.

Both: TA-WANDAAAAAAA!

[They splat the stuff all over her blindfold, and then pull the blindfold off her face. She’s messy, but can see]

Pepper: I can see again! I can see – wonder of wonders – a miracle has occurred among us! And everything looks even more amazing and clear and ... wait – I feel like I can see ... spiritually in some way ... like there’s a part of me that’s always been blind and now I can ... see with my heart?

Caesar: Are you in need of a vet?

Rock: Wait – wait ... wait a cotton-picking-minute ... there’s something about this in the Gerbil of Density.

Both: The Journal of Destiny!

Rock: That’s what I said – it says [flicks thru] here .. here ... as soon as Pepper can see, we need to run! RUN! Because somewhere, someone is in trouble!

Narrator: And with that, they dug down ... no, sorry they ran in circles, and jumped into a fourth whirling portal ... where would they land this time in Pepper’s mind and soul? FIND OUT NEXT TIME ON ... PROJECT PORTAL! [All leaders make a triumphant noise]





## EPISODE 4

# THE CENTURION'S SON

### QUICK LEADER'S OVERVIEW:

**SCRIPTURE INSPIRATION: JOHN 4.46-53 | A CENTURION'S SON IS HEALED**

**THIS EPISODE IS BASED ON THE HEALING OF THIS MAN'S SON, BUT ALSO ON JESUS SAYING HE'S THE GOOD SHEPHERD, AND WE CAN 'HEAR HIS VOICE'**

**JESUS HEALS THIS ROMAN LEADER'S SON AND AS HE IS ON THE WAY HOME HE FINDS OUT THAT THE SON WAS HEALED AT THE EXACT MOMENT JESUS COMMANDED IT TO HAPPEN! JESUS HAS AUTHORITY OVER EVERYTHING, AND HERE WE ARE GOING TO EXPLORE THAT IN AN UNUSUAL WAY INSIDE THE MIND OF PEPPER. SHE'S GOING TO HEAR A VOICE CALLING TO HER NOW THAT SHE CAN SEE SPIRITUALLY, AND WHEN SHE SPEAKS HIS WORDS, SHE HAS SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY TO DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS.**

**SO ALL THAT'S BASICALLY IN HERE.**

### THE SCRIPT:

Narrator: Welcome to the most exciting drama that has ever been written in the history of history, and before that too.

PROJECT PORTAL! [all leaders makes a triumphant noise of some kind]. Our story continues as teenager Pepper, her dog-human, Caesar, and terrified-hero Rock travel around inside Pepper's mind.

[The three land heroically and then stand up, looking around, and behind them is a life-size cut-out of a leader 'in stone', and a sheet in front of it on the floor.]

Pepper: Wow – look guys – look at the weird landscape here in this part of my mind ... there are still some crumbling walls, with little bits of writing on, but there's also a carpet of grass beneath our feet

Caesar: All this grass is making me want to go pee – can I pee on the grass?

Pepper: Caesar – you are a dog, but because of some random plot device you’re also a hooman – no peeing on the grass.

Rock: Maybe he could pee on that statue over ... [points and screams and hides]

Pepper: Oh my goodness! A freaky statue of a freaky person – I am so freaked out right now

Caesar: Whereas I could smell him/her from a mile off – there’s a hint of chicken, a dollop of stale shorts, and a healthy helping of left-over vegetables from a roast dinner on this fine specimen. Can I pee? Can I?

Pepper: No peeing on people Caesar – even if it is one that’s randomly like a statue.

Caesar: Well I got to go some time.

Pepper: Wait ... listen ... do you remember in the last episode when Rock said that we needed to go through the next portal because someone needed my help? Maybe ... maybe this could be the person!

Caesar: Wow – what a detective you are!

Rock: Could I just point out to us all that we have no idea who this random rock-stranger is, and that they might e a violent killer on the loose from jail and determined to hack strong hero types into bite-sized meaty chunks for animal food?

Caesar: Sounds like we all win!

Pepper: Look, there’s a luggage label around his/her neck ... what does it say?

Caesar: [getting the label and bringing it back] It says: “I am the state of Pepper’s heart. Turn me to flesh again so I can love, love, love.”

Rock: Turning that person to flesh again may well cause Pepper to be able to love , but it may also just INDUCE A PANIC ATTACK!

Pepper: I don't feel like I can't love [moves to the audience for a moving speech] ... I used to love ... [the others play violins behind her] ... but my heart has been broken so many times ... where has the love gone? Has it turned to ash in the wind ... could I really learn to love again ... do I .. do I ... [sings] Do I believe in life after love?

Both [echo like in Cher's song] after love, after love, after love...

Pepper: I must do something – if this is really, truly me – then part of me has turned to stone – a heart of stone ... but what could we do?

Caesar: I think I have the answer ... I ... could pee on her/him

Rock: Oh that's the answer to everything is it? Pee pee?

Caesar: At least the answer isn't always to hit the gym and then be scared of everything!

Pepper: Wait! I ... I can hear something on the wind!

Caesar: That might have been me.

Narrator: But no – it wasn't Caesar's bottom at all ... Pepper's new found spiritual sight from last episode had also awoken her spiritual ears ... she could hear for the first time, the whispers of God ... God speaking straight to her ... but what was he saying?

Pepper: Guys, I feel as if I can hear for the first time, the whispers of God speaking straight to me ... but what is he saying?

Rock: Is he saying we should avoid the creepy rock-person who's doing exceptionally well at staying still this whole time?

Caesar: Is he saying : Let him pee – let him pee!

Pepper: I think he simply wants me to say something.

Caesar: Uh! You say stuff all the time, that's not news.

Rock: Maybe he wants you to say that I'm the best and most heroic one here!

Pepper: No it's not that.

Rock: Well you could have broken that to me a little more gently!

Pepper: ROCK – Is there anything in that book?

Caesar: The answer just has to be in there – it’s just got to be!

[Rock gets the book out of his backpack]

Rock: Aha! The Gerbil of Density.

Pepper and Caesar: Journal of Destiny

Rock: It says here – when we get to the creepy statue (literally says creepy right here), that you need to have faith – like a sheep. Faith like a sheep?

Caesar: Not gonna lie, as a dog who’s also a human, I do honestly believe that sheep are super-super dumb.

Rock: Hmm. So maybe your Mumma was a sheep?

Caesar: Your FACE IS A SHEEP

Pepper: GUYS – THIS IS NOT HELPING ME! This heart of mine needs help – faith like a sheep? Is there not an object in that backpack that will help?

Rock: Oh yeah – I forgot about the whole objects in here thing – yes, there’s a large ear-megaphone thing. [Pulls out a large ear-megaphone thing]

Pepper: [puts it to her ear] ... Voice on the wind – I’m listening to you ... I’m listening ...

Caesar: [sneaks up to the side and stage-whispers] “LET ... HIM ... PEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE”

Pepper: Caesar – sit. Stay. [Caesar does exactly that] ...

Rock: You know I’m not the brightest tool in the pencil case, but maybe you can’t hear the voice with your actual ear ... maybe you should put it ... to your heart?

Pepper: That’s ridiculous ... [tries] ... [gasps] ... I hear it! I hear a still small voice, like that of a shepherd for my soul ... he’s saying ... we should raise that helpfully placed sheet up ... and then simply command the stone to become ... flesh.

Caesar: [coughs the word...CRAZY]

Rock: Look – I don't want to be a party-poop and poop all over your party ... but do you really think that's going to work?

Caesar: Yeah ... and if it is going to work ... can I pee on it first?

Pepper: Come on guys – this is the transformation of my heart!  
We have to trust the voice inside!

Both: Okay.

[They lift the sheet up, and it's swapped-out for the real leader. All three of them say boldly and confidently "Heart of Stone, heart so hard, turn to flesh, not to card" ... they drop the sheet, and there's the leader!]

Pepper: Look – how amazing – at the exact moment we said what we said, you – person with no speaking part – you were turned from stone to flesh.

Person: It's a miracle!

Pepper: No speaking part – remember?

Caesar: And how do you feel inside, Pepper?

Pepper: I ... do feel like things are changing! MY walls are coming down, and inside me I'm becoming like this well-watered garden of gorgeousness with trees and rivers.

Caesar: Ooh, now I really, really need a pee!

Rock: Uh oh ... I think I remember from the Gerbil of Density

Both: Journal of Destiny

Rock: When you turn the heart of stone to flesh, you're ready for your darkest test!

Caesar: And everyone knows, if it rhymes it's true.

Narrator: And with that, they pushed each other ... no, sorry they ran in slow motion, and jumped into a fifth whirling portal ... where would they land this time in Pepper's mind and soul?  
FIND OUT NEXT TIME ON ... PROJECT PORTAL! [All leaders make a triumphant noise]



## EPISODE 5

# THE LAME MAN AT THE POOL

### QUICK LEADER'S OVERVIEW:

**SCRIPTURE INSPIRATION: JOHN 5.1-9 | A LAME MAN AT A POOL**

**THIS EPISODE IS BASED ON THE STORY OF THE MAN BY THE POOL WHO'S HEALED, AND ALSO ON JESUS SAYING THAT HE IS THE DOORWAY, AND THAT WE 'ENTER' THROUGH HIM.**

**JESUS GOES INTO A PLACE THAT NO SELF-RESPECTING JEW WOULD EVER HAVE GONE, INTO A PAGAN 'HOLY' SPACE WHERE PEOPLE BELIEVED SUPERNATURAL ANGELS STIRRED THE WATERS FOR HEALING. SO, IT WAS FILLED WITH GENTILES, ALL OF WHOM WERE RITUALLY UNCLEAN, AND MANY WHO WERE PHYSICALLY 'UNCLEAN' TOO. BUT HE MAKES A BEE-LINE FOR ONE GUY AND HEALS HIM. HE ALSO SAYS LATER ON THAT HE IS THE GATE / DOOR TO GOD, AND THAT WE GO THRU HIM TO GET TO GOD.**

**SO ALL THAT'S BASICALLY IN HERE. WE'LL SEE PEPPER VISITING HER WORST PLACE - A TERRIBLE INSECURITY THAT NEEDS HEALING, AND 'THE VOICE' TELLS HER THE DOORWAY TO HER FREEDOM IS ACTUALLY ... FORGIVENESS!**

### THE SCRIPT:

Narrator: Welcome to the most exciting drama that has ever been written in the history of history, and before that too.

PROJECT PORTAL! [all leaders makes a triumphant noise of some kind]. Our story continues as teenager Pepper, her dog-human, Caesar, and terrified-hero Rock travel around inside Pepper's mind.

[The three land heroically and then stand up, looking around, Pepper is in a costume, dressed as a bunch of grapes, and has no idea.]

Pepper: Oh no ... oh no ... something's not right.

Caesar: You're telling me! Uh Pepper - are you okay?

Pepper: NO, I feel like something's different but I just can't put my finger on what it is.

Rock: Uh well maybe we could help you? I mean do you mind if we're 'raisin' the subject with you?

Pepper: What subject?

Caesar: Okay, no need to 'wine' – you don't look like you feel too 'grape' today

Pepper: What? What are you talking about – this is serious guys, something feels really wrong!

Caesar: Maybe we could 'bunch' together to see if we have a 'fruitful' conversation?

Pepper: OH no ... oh no ... I think I know where the portal has taken us ... you see, I have one really, really big fear besides being thrown into a bath full of rotten tomatoes in a unicorn onesie ... in Spain ...

Caesar: Is it to do with ... grapes by any chance?

Rock: 'Grape' minds think alike there Caesar

Caesar: Yeah – that was a da-'vine' answer! ... SQUIRREL!

Pepper: [realises that she's dressed as a bunch of grapes] – Oh no! I've turned into a giant bunch of grapes! THIS IS MY WORST NIGHTMARE COME TROOOOOOOOOOOOO

Caesar: What's wrong with this place Pepper – what's the thing about grapes for you?

Rock: Yeah – what's the issue? I love grapes.

Pepper: This ... this place ... it's a place I promised myself I would never ever come back to ... it is unclean to me – dead to me ... even God would never come here ... these grapes I have become – they represent all the unforgiveness that I hold in my heart toward Jennifer Halcion Pappalardos.

Both: Jennifer Halcion Pappalardos?

Pepper: Jennifer Halcion Pappalardos. I was the spring of October 2024, the first leaves of the evergreens were

sprouting, and the robins were returning from their migration to South London.

Caesar: Oh no – she’s gone into a monologue.

Rock: This could take a while – I think I have some popcorn in the rucksack.

[they get some popcorn from the rucksack]

Pepper: Jennifer Halcion Pappalardos was at a party with me, and I wanted to eat ... [says it super painfully, gesturing to her costume] ... grapes! GRAPES! And she took my tiny cluster, and she squished them in front of me. IT WAS A SLAUGHTER ... I vowed that very day that I would never forgive her for the grape-carnage, and to this day I have never eaten a grape, or forgiven Jennifer Halcion Pappalardos ... no – that door is firmly closed. Locked shut, you could say.. ... [turns to the others] I am done.

Caesar: You and me both Pepper. That was grim!

Rock: Pepper – there’s definitely something important for me to read in the Gerbil of Density.

Caesar: [exhausted] the journal ... of ... thingamy.

Pepper: Read it, but it will make no difference.

Rock: Uh ... here we are ... it’s a warning – and the warning is this: Unforgiveness closes the door, and it rusts the lock, till it opens no more – if you don’t open up you will stay as these grapes, just a grumpy old dufus with a big whiny face.

Pepper: Well that was harsh!

Rock: Wait – look – taped here in the pages of the Gerbil...a key!

Pepper: Great Rock, a key, I mean ... whoopie – where am I meant to put the key then fella? I’m a bunch of grapes not a door!

Caesar: Pepper – you just have to turn back into a hooman for me – I don’t want to escape this pathway of vortexes and get back to reality and be a dog who’s taken for a walk by a bunch of grapes! The other dogs will all laugh at me.

[Rock gets the key and holds it high]

Rock: [heroically] I believe that we have come to this forbidden place for you to confront your deepest level of unforgiveness – the grape massacre of 2022

Pepper and Caesar: 2024

Rock: 2024 ... yes, I swear now – with everything within me ... I will not rest until I have inserted this key into every orifice in your body

Caesar: What??

Pepper: If it must be, then it must be!

Caesar: Wait no, no – maybe Pepper ... maybe ... you need to listen again for the voice? That shepherd for the soul that you heard last episode? Maybe the key is a metaphor rather than a medical tool?

Pepper: You're right ... wait ... wait ... [sniffs the wind]

Narrator: And there – in the place she thought even God had abandoned, and though she had indeed turned into the thing that she feared the most ... she still heard that still small voice of the soul-shepherd

Rock: [putting on a rubber glove] I am ready to insert the key  
Pepper

Pepper: No Rock – thank you for your sacrifice, but I have heard the voice of the soul-shepherd again – he says that the key was just a helpful visual clue

Caesar: I'm so glad, because that glove has reminded me of a visit to the vets once, and that is MY dark place of unforgiveness, I can tell you that!

Pepper: I have heard the voice of the soul-shepherd say ... the door I'm looking for ... it is within me!

Rock: So I still need the glove?

Pepper: [very firmly taking his hand] No, ... no! no – he says that HE is the doorway, and that there is nowhere he will not go in order to help me get the transformation he wants for me

... I don't have to become the thing I hold on to - ... I can ...  
be free!

Caesar: SHOUT OUT HER NAME, PEPPER! SHOUT IT OUT TO LET  
THE FORGIVENESS FLOW AND THE DOORWAY OPEN

Pepper: I forgive you Jennifer Halcion Pappa..lappa...lardy...boos

Caesar: No, you have to actually mean it.

Pepper: Jennifer Halcion Pappalardos – I forgive you!

Rock: Then throw off your clothes!

Caesar: Yes! [starts to]

Rock: Not you, her.

Caesar: Oh.

[Pepper heroically tears off the grape costume, unless that's too  
hard in which case she just starts to]

Pepper: I am free! FREE!

Rock: Come on then! Let's jump into the next swirling portal of  
mystery and see where we are taken next! I feel like I'm  
gaining heroic powers

Pepper: And I am gaining freedom, forgiveness and the ability to  
hear the voice of the soul-shepherd inside me

Caesar: And I'm clocking up embarrassing confessions.

Narrator: And with that, they leapt up and down really, really high  
... no, sorry they ran to the back of the audience and then all  
the way to the front again, and jumped into a sixth whirling  
portal ... where would they land this time in Pepper's mind  
and soul? FIND OUT NEXT TIME ON ... PROJECT PORTAL!  
[All leaders make a triumphant noise]



## EPISODE 6

### WALKING ON WATER

#### QUICK LEADER'S OVERVIEW:

**SCRIPTURE INSPIRATION: JOHN 6.16-21 | JESUS WALKS ON WATER**

**THIS EPISODE IS BASED ON JESUS WALKING ON WATER, WITH OVERTONES ALSO OF JOSHUA 10 WHERE THE SUN STOPS IN THE SKY, AND EXODUS 14 WHERE MOSES PARTS THE SEA.**

**JESUS WALKS ON WATER AND STILL A STORM, SHOWING HIS UTTER POWER OVER ALL NATURE AND OVER EVERYTHING THAT SEEMS TO BE AGAINST US. HE FIGHTS FOR US AND HAS THE POWER TO DO ANYTHING AT ALL (LIKE WITH GIDEON AND MOSES AND SO MANY OTHERS).**

**SO ALL THAT'S BASICALLY IN HERE. PEPPER WILL ENCOUNTER A HUGE, UNSTOPPABLE ISSUE, BUT THE SOUL-SHEPHERD IS GOING TO WHISPER TO HER HOW TO STOP IT, AND IMMEDIATELY THINGS ARE GOING TO CHANGE.**

#### THE SCRIPT:

Narrator: Welcome to the most exciting drama that has ever been written in the history of history, and before that too.

PROJECT PORTAL! [all leaders makes a triumphant noise of some kind]. Our story continues as teenager Pepper, her dog-human, Caesar, and terrified-hero Rock travel around inside Pepper's mind.

[The three land heroically and then stand up, looking around, and this time they're in a desert.]

Pepper: Oh my goodness – we're in a desert! How can we be in a desert – like there's nothing in here at all! It's just miles and miles and miles of emptiness.

Caesar: Rock – is this what its like in your head?

Rock: Not gonna lie – pretty much.

Caesar: Well – this is the kind of place that a dog loves to dig! Can I dig? Can I? Can I? Go on... you've not let me pee on things – surely it can't hurt if I dig here ... can I?

Pepper: Oh my goodness! Okay – dig away – but ... no pooping.

Rock: Pepper – what could this place be in your mind? Why would you have brought us here?

Pepper: Me? I'm not the one bringing us to places – no. At first I thought it was you, guiding us into different mystical portals, and then I realised that the book was guiding us.

Rock: You mean ... the Gerbil of Density?

Caesar: [stops digging for his line, then carries on] – for goodness sake – repeat after me ... Journal

Rock: Gerbil

Caesar: Ger...

Rock: Ger...

Caesar: Null...

Rock: Null...

Caesar: journal...

Rock: Gerbil...

Caesar: Can I bury him in this hole I'm digging?

Pepper: Guys – I'm getting really worried you know – we've fought shark-infested custard, we've needed to absorb our deadly tears in the ruined castle of my thoughts, we've been blinded and needed to re-create my vision with primordial ooze, and we've needed to turn a creepy stone man into a real person again! What's next? What's here?

Rock: Don't forget that we saved you when you became your worst fear and turned into a bunch of grapes.

Caesar: Yes don't forget the grapes!

Pepper: This whole thing is a never-ending nightmare of gargantuan proportions! Everything keeps going wrong!

Caesar: [sniffing the wind] Guys – I don't mean to worry you, but it smells like ... a strong wind.

Rock: Well there haven't been any toilet breaks, and I can only hold things in for a while before it becomes unhealthy

Caesar: no not that - ... that [points]

[Caesar is pointing to a small group of leaders who have yellow crepe paper streamers (or anything yellow and streamery) who are coming through the audience toward them, whipping their streamers about them in a menacing and storm-like way]

All: Oh no – it's a giant sand-storm of doom headed our way ready to wipe us from the face of the earth.

Rock: THIS IS INDUCING A PANIC ATTACK – PANIC ATTACK

Caesar: Wait – I think that might be it Pepper! I think that might actually be what it is!

Pepper: Then we need to stop him panicking!

[The 'sandstorm' dances around them in a mocking way as they try to minister to Rock's panic-attack]

[They give him a paper bag to blow into – it doesn't help]

[They clap loudly in his face a few times – it doesn't help]

[Pepper gets his attention, stills him, then stage-slaps him in the face ... nothing changes]

Caesar: None of these things seem to be helping

Pepper: The sand will encase us and we will never be seen again!

Rock: CONSULT THE GERBIL – CONSULT THE GERBIL – CONSULT THE GERBIL!

[They pull out the Journal, and they read the page]

All: [shouting together] – search the rucksack and find the special giant coin

[They search the giant rucksack until they find the laminated giant coin (you can take a photo of the one at the end of this chapter and use that for both sides)]

Rock: How can this help us? We're all going to die!

Caesar: Look – it's a coin and a clock – and there's a sun ... what could it mean?

Pepper: It's reminding me of a story where a man in the Bible prayed that the sun would stay still all day so that they could win a battle, and it did! Maybe the answer is about asking for God's help! But how!?! How do we even do that??

Narrator: Everything looked as if there was no way things could change, as if everything would get covered with the sands of despair – they had tried everything to make it all stop, everything except one thing ... suddenly, Pepper remembered that she could listen to the voice of the Soul-Shepherd, and so ... she prayed.

[Everything stops ... the other characters drop to crouch on the floor, and the 'sandstorm' people walk slowly around her as the narrator and her converse]

Pepper: Soul-shepherd ... are you there?

Narrator: Pepper felt his reply – yes, he was always there – he would never leave her – never abandon her.

Pepper: Soul-Shepherd – I feel like this storm, raging all around us is going to be the end of us all! Why aren't you here?

Narrator: But even as she said the words – she could hear his answer ... he was there with them.

Pepper: Then please – would you still the storm?

Narrator: And he did! [the stormy people drop to the floor, and the characters get back up at the same time]

Rock: What the what?!

Caesar: What happened there? How did you? What? When?

Pepper: No, it wasn't me guys - ... it was the voice of the Soul-Shepherd.

Rock: He stilled the storm all around us?

Caesar: He stilled the storm all around us! wonder of wonders – a miracle has occurred among us!

Pepper: Rock – what even is this Journal of Destiny – how even did you get it?

Rock: I told you in episode one Pepper – you gave it to me!

Caesar: That makes even less sense than the other things you say. How can that have happened? We've never even met you.

Rock: Your face has never met me

Caesar: that doesn't make any sense!

Pepper: Maybe ... maybe I've been looking at this whole thing upside down.

Rock: Want me to grab your legs and flip you the other way up? I'm totally strong enough to do that you know, I could probably hold you for hours

Caesar: See – no sense at all.

Pepper: I've been looking at all the things that have been going wrong, and what's actually been happening is that the Soul-Shepherd has been using these things to help make everything right!

Caesar: Yes, yes, yes! First we met the Shark-infested custard, but it was transformed into an abundance of jam.

Rock: Then we were about to be drowned, but that teeny-tiny cloth transformed into the biggest absorbent cloth in the world and we were saved.

Pepper: Then my walls came down and my heart turned to flesh, and my doors were opened and I could hear the soul-shepherd

Caesar: And now he has stilled the storm inside you!

Pepper: Everything's getting better and better and better.

Rock: You know I'm not the quickest slug in the Olympics, but I think that maybe this is a sign that everything is going to be okay.

Pepper: Let's consult the book again!

Caesar: You mean the Gerbil of Density?

Pepper: [laughs] lol – the Gerbil of Density!

Caesar: SQUIRREL!

Rock: [rummages] oh no – guys ... no, no, no ... LOOK!

[Rock pulls out a concrete mouse-figure from the bag]

All: Oh no – the book has transformed and ... BECOME AN ACTUAL GERBIL OF DENSITY!

Pepper: How will we read the advice in the book?

Caesar: When will I be able to have that wee?

Rock: Why can't I say Journal of Destiny?

Narrator: And with that, they cried, and they wailed, and they laughed, and one of them farted ... and then they jumped into a seventh whirling portal ... where would they land this time in Pepper's mind and soul? FIND OUT NEXT TIME ON ... PROJECT PORTAL! [All leaders make a triumphant noise]





# EPISODE 7

## THE CRUCIFIXION

### QUICK LEADER'S OVERVIEW:

**SCRIPTURE INSPIRATION: JOHN 19.26-30 | THE CRUCIFIXION**

**THIS EPISODE IS BASED ON JESUS BEING CRUCIFIED, WITH ECHOES OF ABRAHAM AND ISAAC FROM GENESIS 22.**

**JESUS IS TAKEN AWAY AND CRUCIFIED, AND HE SAYS THAT HE DOES IT FOR THE SINS OF THE WHOLE WORLD – TAKING ALL THE SPIRITUAL DEBT, ALL THE BROKENNESS ONTO HIMSELF, AND REPLACING TO US A NEW LIFE. IN A FORESHADOWING OF THIS, THE OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTER ABRAHAM WAS ASKED BY GOD TO SACRIFICE HIS SON ISAAC, AND BOTH DECIDED THAT THEY WOULD COMPLY. AT THE LAST MINUTE GOD SUBSTITUTED A RAM FOR ISAAC, WHO DIED IN HIS PLACE.**

**SO ALL THAT'S BASICALLY IN HERE, ALTHOUGH WITHOUT THE WHOLE THREAT OF DEATH. PEPPER WILL BE COVERED IN THE 'WORDS FROM THE WALLS' – THEY'LL BE ALL OVER HER, TYING HER UP, AND THREATENING TO COMPLETELY ENGULF HER, BUT CAESAR IS GOING TO OFFER TO TAKE HER PLACE, AND HE'LL GET ALL MUMMIFIED ... OR IS IT ACTUALLY A CHRYSALIS?**

### THE SCRIPT:

**Narrator: Welcome to the most exciting drama that has ever been written in the history of history, and before that too.**

**PROJECT PORTAL! [all leaders makes a triumphant noise of some kind]. Our story continues as teenager Pepper, her dog-human, Caesar, and terrified-hero Rock travel around inside Pepper's mind.**

**[The three land heroically and then stand up, looking around, and this time they're in a desert.]**

**Pepper: Oh my goodness – we're back in the place with the broken-down walls from an earlier episode ... but look – the walls, the writing ... where's it gone?**

Caesar: I bet you're pleased about that, because there was some super-embarrassing stuff on those walls Pepper.

Rock: Like the one where you confessed to keeping the t-shirt of the guy you fancied when he left it at your house, just so you could cuddle up at night and smell it.

Pepper: What? That was on there!?

Caesar: Or the one where you were super-super jealous of your friend Stacey's pencil case because it had a picture of that K-Pop band on it!

Pepper: It's not that big a problem to be jealous of other people's stuff is it?

Rock: Or ... or ... or that one I saw where your dog brought some poop into the house and it went on your school bag and everyone called you 'poo-bags' for a week, and you [breaks down laughing] you ... you still can't forgive him for that! Oh the merriment.

Caesar: [looks super sadly to Pepper] is that true? You've still not been able to forgive me?

Pepper: Uh ...it was ... uh ...

Caesar: Even after I slept at your feet all that night?

Pepper: Thanks a million Rock!

Caesar: You've not been able to forgive me? [walks off, super sad]

Rock: Was it something I said?

Pepper: Well maybe now we can add to the list that I'll not be able to forgive YOU for your stupidity and your ... [blurts out in frustration] arhg!

Rock: You can't forgive me because you ... think I'm a pirate?

Caesar: [sniffing the wind] Listen ... something's wrong guys ... there's something approaching on the wind like a foul stench of ... unforgiveness ... and regret ... and un-loving ...

Pepper: Caesar, you don't need to rub it in for me! Wow! Thanks a million!

Rock: Yeah – if ever there were an unforgiving dog ...

Pepper: Why don't we look in the Journal of Destiny Rock? Oh I know – because SOMEONE kept saying Gerbil of Density – and turned our life's guidebook ... into a GARDEN ORNAMENT! This whole thing is a never-ending nightmare of gargantuan proportions! Everything keeps going wrong!

Caesar: [sniffing the wind] It's getting closer! I smell danger.

Rock: I smell someone trying to change the subject!

Caesar: no LOOK! ... that [points]

[Caesar is pointing to a small group of leaders who have toilet rolls with them – they dance hilariously and menacingly toward Pepper, and then start to mummify her in the loo-roll]

All: Oh no – it's a menacing group of randoms who are ...

Rock: INDUCING A PANIC ... wait – what **are** they doing?

Caesar: Can't you see? Isn't it obvious?

Pepper: No not really – what's going on?

Caesar: Of course – you can't see it because you have HUMAN eyes – but as a dog in reality, I have extra sight that you don't have!

Pepper: I don't think that's a thing Caesar, dogs can't even see in colour.

Rock: No, he's right Pepper – according to a number of highly verifiable sources, unlike humans, whose eyes block UV rays, dogs can actually see into the UV light spectrum, which allows them to see patterns and reflections invisible to humans.

Caesar: Yes – and I can see written all over all of these terrifying bandages that seem to be wrapping you up into some kind of pupa ... you're being encased inside all of the unloving actions and attitudes that you've made! You're being MUMMIFIED by your own failings!

Rock: Wow – if they’d come for me they would have had to use a lot more than that! My whole life is a life of ...

[as he speaks, another group come in and start wrapping him up too]

Rock: great – me and my mouth!

Pepper: We can’t break out – we can’t break out! These bandages mummifying us are so super-super strong that we are helpless! Helpless I tell you!

Rock: OH no! Whatever will we do? We can’t even consult with the Gerbil of Density because it’s been swapped into something else! Why! Why! Why!

Narrator: Everything looked as if there was no way things could change – yes, this was going to be the last episode for Pepper and Rock unless Caesar could do something ...well something miraculous – but thankfully, dogs are cleverer than we often give them credit for.

Caesar: Wait – [rushes to the audience while the others continue to get mummified] ... the journal of destiny was ... swapped into the Gerbil of Density ... or course – we can swap! We can swap! Yes [super heroic] yea even though they walk through the valley of the shadow of mummification, and even though Pepper cannot bring herself to forgive me for the pooping incident ... I shall save them both!

[Caesar stands in the middle of both of them and shouts, “I am Pepper! I am Caesar!”. Immediately the people all swarm around him, and mummify him as fast as possible, and the loo-roll falls from the others. Once they’re done, they can sidle off.]

Pepper: Caesar – what have you done! No! No! No!

Narrator: But even as she said the words – her beloved pooch was entirely mummified into a chrysalis of doom.

Rock: Look Pepper – Caesar has been entirely mummified into a chrysalis of doom!

Pepper: He saved us! He took on all the things that we had done, our unloving attitudes, our unloving actions – and they wrapped themselves around HIM instead of us!

Rock: Shame we can't read some of them, there were some pretty embarrassing things on yours.

Pepper: If only there was a way to save him too – what will become of the world!!

Rock: [grabs the Gerbil] And you, my tiny mistaken friend – how will you ever help us now?

Pepper: How is it fair that we would live, while he took the consequences of the rubbish that so easily entangled us!?

Rock: Oh Gerbil – Oh Gerbil ... [suddenly looks shocked] ... Ooh ... Gerbil? Gerbil??

Pepper: What are you going on about Rock?

Rock: The Gerbil of Density ... it ... I think it spoke to me!

Pepper: Really?

Rock: [sarcastically] no, I thought that this was the perfect time to invent a story about a talking rock [breaks out into normal frustration] – yes of course really.

Pepper: Well put it to your ear! Tell us – what is the Gerbil of Destiny saying? [to the audience] Never thought I'd say that sentence!

Rock: It's saying that there's something important about ... our names?

Pepper: Our names? What could be so important about the names Rock, Pepper and Caesar?

Both: [suddenly realising, and doing the 'rock, paper, scissors' actions as they say the names ...] OH ... ROCK ... PAPER ... SCISSORS!

Rock: But what's that meant to mean? What are we meant to do?

Caesar: Whatever it is, get on with it – I'm about to die in here!

Rock: Wow – I thought he was already dead.

Pepper: WHAT DOES IT MEAN? NOOOOOOOOOO!

Narrator: And with that, the two of them went through the three symbols 'rock, paper, scissors' again and again to figure out what this meant! How would they rescue or release their wonderful dog? Would he die ... to death? FIND OUT NEXT TIME ON ... PROJECT PORTAL! [All leaders make a triumphant noise]





# EPISODE 8

## THE RESURRECTION

### QUICK LEADER'S OVERVIEW:

SCRIPTURE INSPIRATION: JOHN 20.1-10 (OR 1-18) | THE RESURRECTION

THIS EPISODE IS BASED ON JESUS BEING RESURRECTED, WITH ECHOES OF JONAH (JONAH 1-2) IN THE FISH, AND DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN. (DANIEL 6)

JESUS IS TAKEN AWAY AND BURIED, BUT THEN HE BURSTS FROM THE GRAVE AND IS ALIVE! SIMILARLY, JONAH IS SWALLOWED BY A GIANT FISH AND THEN SPEWED ONTO A BEACH, AND DANIEL IS LOCKED INTO A TOMB WITH LIONS, BUT WHEN THE STONE IS ROLLED AWAY – HE'S ALSO ALIVE.

SO ALL THAT'S BASICALLY IN HERE, CAESAR IS GOING TO RETURN TO LIFE AS A SUPER-DOG, THROUGH SOME GROSS AND HILARIOUS MEANS, AND HIS VICTORY IS ALSO GOING TO GIVE EXTRA POWER TO ROCK AND PEPPER – THE POWER TO BE ABLE TO BREAK FREE AND RETURN TO REALITY ... THOUGH THEY MAY HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE TO ROCK.

### THE SCRIPT:

Narrator: Welcome to the most exciting drama that has ever been written in the history of history, and before that too. PROJECT PORTAL! [all leaders makes a triumphant noise of some kind]. Our story continues as teenager Pepper, her dog-human, Caesar, and terrified-hero Rock travel around inside Pepper's mind.

**[This time, Caesar (who's totally wrapped in loo roll) is actually someone else, because Caesar is going to be resurrected almost instantly from the very back of the audience]**

[We pick up exactly where we left off last time - ]

Pepper: Our names? What could be so important about the names Rock, Pepper and Caesar?

Both: [suddenly realising, and doing the 'rock, paper, scissors' actions as they say the names ...] OH ... ROCK ... PAPER ... SCISSORS!

Rock: But what's that meant to mean? What are we meant to do?

Pepper: WHAT DOES IT MEAN? NOOOOOOOOOO!

Rock: Whatever it is Pepper, we had better work it out quickly, because I can see a horrific, terrifying creature coming toward us from over there! It looks like a few leaders covered in a tarpaulin, I know ... but I have seen this beast before ... it is ... THE MALAKOR WRAITH-GOBBLER

Pepper: The what?

Rock: The Malakor Wraith-Gobbler – it stalks these lands, seeking out poor, innocent creatures who have been turned into a Chrysalis by their own inner-darkness, and ... it gobbles them up! [to the audience] it also has farts that smell of an upper-school changing-room. Very nasty.

Pepper: How do we beat it?

Rock: No one knows – the only thing we know about these creatures is that they are incredibly competitive and like games of chance.

Pepper: Then all is lost! [falls to her knees] GOODBYE CAESAR! YOU WERE SOMETIMES A GOOD DOG.

[The Malakor Wraith-Gobbler reaches them, and the person at the front of it sticks out their hand as a rock]

Pepper: Rock – I think the Malakor Wraith-Gobbler has issues me a challenge – a Rock, Paper, Scissors challenge no less.

Rock: But which shall we start with? [to the audience] Look – a group of people have arrived here with us, to watch the doom of the doggie as it's gobbled up by the gobbler – maybe we should ask them.

Pepper: Random audience – shout to us! Guide us! Rock, Paper or Scissors?

[Listen to the audience and choose whatever it is that they shout the loudest]

Rock: Okay – they’ve chosen [ROCK / PAPER / SCISSORS], Which means that if the Malakor Wraith-Gobbler chooses [X] we win and if the Malakor Wraith-Gobbler chooses [Y] we lose.

Both: Rock, Paper, Scissors, Choose!

[The Malakor Wraith-Gobbler chooses whatever makes it win, and moves closer to the dog. They do this three times, and each time they lose. On the third time, the Malakor Wraith-Gobbler gobbles up Caesar.]

[The Malakor Wraith-Gobbler stays at the front, with ‘Caesar’ inside ... secretly, under the tarp, whoever was pretending to be Caesar ‘unwraps’ and bungs the paper into a rucksack of some kind that they can wear so that when the monster is destroyed, all that’s there is a couple of leaders and no paper ... that’s the dream ... see what happens!]

Rock: Noo! Caesar!

Pepper: Rock, Rock – does the Gerbil have anything to say?

Rock: [Listens] ... no.

Pepper: All is lost – this is a tragedy of gargantuan proportions. If only there was a way we could know what to do!

Rock: Uh ... you could try to listen to the still small voice of the Soul-Shepherd?

Pepper: You know – I just keep forgetting about that.

Narrator: And so she tuned in to the voice within her and asked:

Pepper: Soul-Shepherd ... any clues?

Narrator: And as always – he answered.

Pepper: Rock – he says to wait ... just three beats of a drum!

Rock: But we don't have a drum ... wait – unless ... [rummages in the rucksack] – look! You must have put it on the list in the original Gerbil of Density...

Pepper: Journal of destiny

Rock: So ... we just beat this three times?

Pepper: Give it a go! ... [they rouse the audience to clap three, loud, strong, slow beats super-dramatically, and they bang the drum at the same time ... and on three ... from the back of the audience, and now dressed in a super-hero outfit...]

Caesar: I'M ALIVE! I'M ALIVE – AND I HAVE HAD A SERIOUS UPGRADE!

Rock: Is it a bird? Is it a plane?

Pepper: No it ...it's SUPER-CAESAR!

Caesar: Yes! 'tiz I Pepper – and I have super laser eyes that can fry up monsters! Watch this!

[He zaps the monster with his laser eyes and it makes a horrible noise, wobbles, and then explodes (as in the leaders all fall to the ground or something)]

Rock: You vanquished the monster that felt like death itself!  
Huzzah!

Pepper: Wow – you're bigger and better than ever – but how?

Caesar: I dunno – I'm a dog!

Pepper: wonder of wonders – a miracle has occurred among us!

Rock: What do we do now? If only we had the Gerbil of Destiny to guide us!

Caesar: Well I have the power to change stuff into ... OTHER STUFF – Grab your rodent Rock.

Rock: Lol – you said grab your rodent rock, and like, the rodent is made of rock, but I'm called Rock, so that worked on so many levels right there.

[Caesar uses his laser eyes and zaps the Gerbil, and without any pretence at it being mysterious, Rock quickly swaps the Gerbil for the Journal]

Pepper: wonder of wonders – another miracle has occurred among us, albeit a slightly lame one.

Narrator: And so they celebrated together and looked in the journal.

Rock: Look Pepper – It says here that once your dog becomes a super-hero ... you can go back home ... but it will mean leaving me here, because I actually only exist here ... in the middle of your mind.

Pepper: Well that's disturbing

Rock: And when you return to the real world – Caesar will just be a normal dog.

Caesar: Anit nothing normal about this fine specimen of a pooch

Rock: But return you must Pepper – go! Be free!

Pepper: I shall! I shall! ... uh how?

Rock: Just jump into that swirling vortex right there – and don't forget ... you need to fill all this in, in your empty diary so that you can give it to me in the future, which will actually be in your past.

Pepper: Okay, let's just say that's a thing. GOODBYE!

Rock: I will always love you – as you shall always love me!

Pepper: That might be overplaying how I feel about you actually – okay bye!

Narrator: And with that, the dog and the girl jumped into the helpfully close swirling vortex – they swirled round and round and then ... and then ... FIND OUT NEXT TIME ON ... PROJECT PORTAL! [All leaders make a triumphant noise]

See if you can take a photo of this and stick it onto a t-shirt somehow for the super-dog.





## EPISODE 9

# JESUS BREATHE HIS SPIRIT INTO THE BELIEVERS

### QUICK LEADER'S OVERVIEW:

**SCRIPTURE INSPIRATION:** JOHN 20.19-23 | JESUS BREATHE ONTO THE DISCIPLES

THIS EPISODE IS BASED ON JESUS BREATHING THE SPIRIT INTO THE DISCIPLES, WITH ECHOES OF GENESIS 2, WHEN MAN WAS MADE AND GOD BREATHED LIFE INTO HIM.

JESUS APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES AND BREATHES HIS SPIRIT INTO THEM, LIKE HE'S RE-CREATING OR THEY'RE BEING RE-BORN – AND THAT IS ALSO AN ECHO OF THE GENESIS 2 ACCOUNT.

SO ALL THAT'S BASICALLY IN HERE, IN SOME WAY. GO WITH IT!

### THE SCRIPT:

Narrator: Welcome to the most exciting drama that has ever been written in the history of history, and before that too.

PROJECT PORTAL! [all leaders makes a triumphant noise of some kind]. Our story continues as teenager Pepper, and her dog-human, Caesar, think they will land back in reality ... but there is one more stop that they need...

[Pepper and Caesar (in his superhero outfit) land somewhere, heroically]

Pepper: Wait a minute – this isn't back in reality – we're ... we're ... where on earth are we Caesar?

Caesar: I don't know.

Pepper: Don't you have like super-dog echo-location or something?

Caesar: Nope – but with my extra increased hearing I could see what I can hear?

Pepper: Well go on then!!

Caesar: Let me tune in to the sounds of the earth ... I can hear your stomach ... I can hear the sound of waves in the distance ... I can hear ... Pepper – I think I can hear Rock!

Pepper: As in ... Rock the person?

Caesar: [sarcastic] No – the rocks are speaking to me. – Yes, Rock the person.

Pepper: Well in fairness to me, this drama has contained a speaking Gerbil made of rock ... it's not the most unlikely thing we could have included.

Caesar: I think he'll be coming from around that corner.

[He points one direction, and from the opposite direction, on runs Rock]

Rock: ARGH! What are you guys still doing here?

Both: Argh! What are you doing here?

Rock: I thought that final vortex was going to send you home! You've learnt all the lessons you were meant to learn haven't you?

Pepper: What lessons?

Rock: The ones in the Gerbil of...

[Pepper puts her hand over his mouth to stop him]

Pepper: Please ... we want this to remain a journal for at least this episode. Now ... what are you talking about?

Caesar: Yeah – spill the milk you dashing hero, or I'll blast you with my laser eyes

Pepper: Caesar – really?

Caesar: Too much?

Pepper: You think!?

Rock: Listen – I thought you’d gone through all the life-lessons in the book that you wrote and gave to me – but maybe there’s something you didn’t include ... or wrote somewhere else ... if you were going to write something super-super important in a book, where would you write it?

Caesar: Well I can’t write actually – I’m a dog.

Rock: not you.

Pepper: I’d write it on the very last final page, because that’s where I always open the book first to see how it all ends.

Rock: That is so cheating.

Caesar: Did you look there?

Rock: NO! Genius!

Caesar: A superhero and a genius – this gets better and better!

Rock: [consulting the Journal] HERE! Your final job before you leave is to ... to be reborn? What?

Caesar: This is going to be seriously messy! I’ll boil a kettle and get some fluffy towels – [shouts] THIS NEXT PART IS PROBABLY A CERTIFICATE 15

Pepper: no, no – Caesar – it’s probably got a deeper meaning than actually being born again ... right? There’s not like another monster like the Malakor Wraith-Gobbler and it’s going to make me like ... be literally born again, right?

Rock: It says here, that you need the breath of God inside you to re-create you now that you’re forgiven and free.

Caesar: That’s specific

Pepper: But how? But how?

Rock: Using ... the final thing in the bag. ... [brings out a large balloon, already blown up and tied] this – it is the Orb of the breath of God.

Both: Ooh – the Orb of the breath of God

Caesar: And what does that do apart from get us to speak in unison with each other?

Rock: If you can let it blow into your face – it fills you with the very presence of God in every fibre of your being. There are only two of these precious orbs in existence. They are priceless and holy.

Caesar: [taking it] and how does it work? [accidentally pops it]

All: Argh!

Rock: Caesar! You exploded the Orb of the Breath of God!

Caesar: I didn't mean to! I've got doggie claws! [angrily to Pepper] I TOLD YOU I NEEDED TO HAVE MY CLAWS TRIMMED BUT YOU WOULDN'T LISTEN

Pepper: I COULDN'T LISTEN CAESAR – HUMANS CAN'T UNDERSTAND DOGS

Rock: [Pulling the other one out of the bag] ... Never mind – here is the only other Orb of the Breath of God in existence ... maybe this one can do its job.

Caesar: [going to get it] and how does it...

Rock: [screaming] Argh! No – please can Pepper be the one to hold it?

[Pepper takes it, and prepares to gently cut the flobboly end of the balloon so that it will deflate quickly but not explode]

Pepper: So I'm meant to let the breath of God blow into my face, and then ... I'm reborn?

Rock: And then this terrible drama can reach its conclusion

Caesar: Then it's really worth it Pepper.

Pepper: Okay – I ... am ready!

[She lets it blow into her face]

Narrator: Suddenly – from the core of her being, and in every cell of her body – through her spirit and soul, and even to the tips of her toes, Pepper felt something new stirring – she felt the Soul-Shepherd himself filling her, transforming her, surrounding and encircling her ... and she felt power – the power of God at work.

Pepper: Guys – guys – what the narrator said just happened to me!

Rock: Now – Pepper – you must write all of the things that have happened to you into your journal, and the next and final vortex you jump into ... will bring you to me. Hand me the journal, and I will collect all of these things for you.

Pepper: Why can't you just give me that one in your hand?

Rock: Look – see? As we have experienced these things, the writing in the Gerbil ...has gone. Now this is as empty as Caesar's head.

Caesar: SQUIRREL!

Narrator: And in a flash, Pepper wrote (with her new power that lived inside her) all of the things they had been through. She left out no details, and included a list of things very handy to have in case they ever turned these into a set of dramas ... and then handed them to Rock.

Pepper: Look – the final vortex that will take us home! Now – I am reborn, I can hear the Soul-Shepherd, and my dog is a superhero

Caesar: And don't forget that I'm a superhero

Pepper: I said that

Rock – Gotta go – you're about to turn up in that portal over there for the first time – and I need to get all this stuff for you. Bye! I'll miss you Pepper. [runs off heroically]

Caesar: Well – shall we?

Pepper: We shall!

Narrator: And they jumped into the final vortex of time and space, and landed back on the street where they came from. Pepper was herself again, and Caesar just a normal dog, totally not wearing a super-hero outfit any more ... but they were not the same.

Pepper: Listen Caesar ... I can still hear the voice of the Soul-Shepherd ... he's telling me that I am not the only one with

this power and who has been born again ... he's telling me that I need to seek them out – and that together .. together ... we have a job to do for him in the world! To take care of creation ... to serve human need ... and to introduce others to him! Let's go!

Caesar: And I'm just a dog with no powers. Great.

Pepper: Caesar – did you speak!?

Both: Whaaaaaaaaattttttt?

Narrator: That is the end of our story – and if you want it – this could be your story too, ... but without much of the silliness. Be the story yourselves, welcome in the Soul-Shepherd, and be born again! Thank you for watching – we have been:

All [including Rock who's randomly back] PROJECT PORTAL!

[All leaders make a super-abundant dramatic noise and that's all folks].



9 fun dramas inspired by John's Gospel  
to help explore or deepen faith.

For use at Beach Missions, family services,  
kids clubs, assemblies or anywhere else where  
kids will be able to see them.

Written for the Port St Mary Beach Mission  
on the Isle of Man.

