

LENT 2026 | SUNDAY SCRIPTURE ALIVE

Inspired by the Revised Common Lectionary and 2026's USE Kids5 Videos

By Kathryn Higgins and Samuel I. Laro

WHY | Scripture can come alive for readers and listeners alike when we give it just a little space, rehearsal and prayerful consideration.

WHAT | A series of short, scripture-focused scripts to be used by Salvation Army Corps and Community Centers during Lent. Two provided for each of the four weeks leading into Easter, one highlights the scripture and content of Kids5, and the other highlights a scripture commonly used on that Sunday based on the Revised Common Lectionary.

WHERE | It is recommended speakers stand on the stage, using mics with stands so binders can be used.

WHEN | This series can be used all together or as individual parts through your Lenten season.

HOW | With binders in hand, these scripts are designed to require minimal rehearsal (usually a simple read-through or two will do the trick) no costumes, props or staging. Of course, any script can be performed any Sunday, the following are merely suggestions to get you started.

Week 1 | The Temptation of Jesus | 4 speakers, Matthew 4:1-11 NLT

Week 1 | The Soldiers Mock Jesus | 2 speakers, Mark 15:16–21 NLT, MSG

Week 2 | The Master Needs Them | 3 speakers, Matthew 21:1–3 MSG, NLT

Week 2 | However | 3 speakers, Romans 8:6-11 NIV, NLT, GNT

Week 3 | Jesus Predicts His Death | 2 speakers, Mark 8:31–38 NLT and MSG

Week 3 | On the Cross | 3 speakers, Luke 23:32-43 MSG

Week 4 | After the Sabbath | 4 speakers, Mark 16:1-8 NLT, GNT

Week 4 | The Promise of Easter | 2 speakers, Jeremiah 31:1-6 & Colossians 3:1-4 NLT, GNT

Week 1 | March 8, 2026 | The Temptation of Jesus, Matthew 4:1-11 NLT

By Kathryn Higgins

A spoken word for four readers based on Matthew 4:1-11 NLT. This script could potentially segue into a sermon focused on the temptation of Jesus. FOUR speaks as Jesus, TWO and THREE speak as the devil and ONE speaks as narrator. This will likely require a few minutes of rehearsal to get the timing together. Use breath to guide unison.

ALL The Temptation of Jesus.

(Beat.)

FOUR Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

TWO & THREE He was tempted there by the devil.

FOUR For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became –

FOUR, TWO & THREE -very hungry.

ONE During that time the devil came and said to him,

TWO & THREE “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.”

ONE But Jesus told him,

ONE & FOUR “No!”

FOUR “The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

ONE Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said,

TWO & THREE “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say...

TWO ‘He will order his angels to protect you...

THREE ...And they will hold you up with their hands...

TWO ... so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.’”

ONE Jesus responded,

FOUR “The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the Lord your God.’”

ONE Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world...

ONE, TWO & FOUR ... and their glory.

TWO & THREE “I will give it all to you if you will kneel down and worship me.”

FOUR “Get out of here, Satan,”

ONE Jesus told him.

FOUR “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’”

ONE Then the devil went away.

ONE & FOUR And angels came and took care of Jesus.

Week 1 | March 8, 2026 | The Soldiers Mock Jesus, Mark 15:16–21 NLT, MSG

By Kathryn Higgins

In the style of scripture alive, a presentation of scripture with minimal commentary for two voices based on Mark 15:16–21 NLT. This piece echoes the teaching and scripture used in this week's Kids5. It is very serious in tone and should be approached with reverence, a slow pace and focus. Musical underscoring is encouraged.

ONE The soldiers took Jesus into the courtyard of the governor's headquarters.

TWO They called out the entire regiment.

BOTH “Hey! Look here!”

ONE They dressed him in a purple robe.

TWO The color of royalty.

ONE They wove thorn branches into a crown -

TWO - and put it on his head.

BOTH They tried to make a mockery of him.

ONE They saluted him and taunted him,

BOTH “Hail! King of the Jews!”

TWO They struck him on the head with a reed stick,

ONE Spit on him,

TWO and dropped to their knees in mock worship.

BOTH “Bravo! King of the Jews!”

Beat.

ONE When they were finally tired-

TWO -tired of mocking him.

ONE After they had had their fun-

ONE -they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him again.

TWO Then they led him away,

ONE They marched him out to nail him to a cross-

BOTH - to be crucified (*Beat*) But -

ONE -there was someone passing by.

TWO A man named Simon, who was from Cyrene.

ONE He was coming in from work-

ONE -coming home from the countryside –

BOTH And just then,

TWO -and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross.

ONE Simon, a passerby, used his strength through the unthinkable.

Beat.

TWO Today in Kids5 we learned that before you ever get a gift, someone had to give it.

ONE And giving isn't always easy.

TWO Sometimes giving takes time.

ONE Sometimes giving means using your strength -

BOTH - even when it's hard.

Week 2 | March 15, 2026 | The Master Needs Them, Matthew 21:1–3 MSG, NLT

By Kathryn Higgins

In the style of scripture alive, three voices tell the story and enact how the disciples were obedient to Jesus' commands. This piece echoes the message and scripture of the Kids5 episode for the week and is a little lighter in tone.

TWO When the disciples neared Jerusalem, Jesus sent two disciples with these instructions:

THREE “Go over to the village across from you. You’ll find a donkey tethered there, her colt with her. Untie her and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you’re doing, say, ‘The Master needs them!’ and he will immediately let you take them.”

ONE This is the full story of what was sketched earlier by the prophet:

THREE Tell Zion’s daughter,
“Look, your king’s on his way,
poised and ready, mounted
On a donkey, on a colt,
foal of a pack animal.”

ALL The disciples went and did exactly what Jesus told them to do.

ONE (As a disciple, talking to TWO) Excuse me sir, is this your donkey?

TWO (As the respondent, talking to ONE) Yes it is.

ONE (As a disciple, talking to TWO) Well, uh.... This is gonna sound kinda weird, but... The Master needs them.

Beat.

TWO (As the respondent, talking to ONE) Ok.

THREE And just like that, they led the donkey and colt out-

ONE -laid some of their clothes on them,

TWO And Jesus sat on the donkey.

THREE Simple obedience means saying yes.

ONE Simple obedience means helping when you don’t know why.

TWO It means giving when you don't see the full picture.

ALL This is what Jesus asks of us.

ONE Simple obedience to say yes.

TWO I'll offer my possessions –

THREE My time –

ONE My willingness.

ALL Because The Master needs them.

Week 2 | March 15, 2026, | However, Romans 8:6-11 NIV, NLT

By Samuel I. Laro

In the style of scripture alive, a presentation of scripture with minimal commentary for three voices based on Romans 8:6-11 from the NIV, NLT, and GNT. The piece is not one of condemnation but should rather glorify the reality of the hope of Jesus Christ. In sections of repetition/repetitive language, performers should consider placing emphasis on different words to provide different meaning each time.

ONE Letting your sinful nature control your mind –
TWO To be controlled by human nature –
THREE To have our minds set on what nature desires -
ALL - is hostile to God.
TWO When people are controlled by their human nature, they do not obey God’s law.
ONE The sinful nature never did obey God’s laws –
THREE Nor can it do so.
ONE That’s why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature –
THREE controlled by it -
TWO - Those who obey their human nature -
ALL - *cannot* please God.

 (*beat*)
ALL However...
ONE You are not controlled by your sinful nature.
TWO You do not live as your human nature tells you to;
ALL Instead...
THREE You live by the Spirit.
ONE You are controlled by the Spirit.
TWO If, in fact, God’s spirit lives in you.
THREE Christ lives within you!

ONE Even though your body will die because of sin –
TWO The Spirit is life for you –
THREE Your spirit is alive!
ALL If the Spirit of God –
TWO - Who raised Jesus from death -
ALL - lives in you –
ONE - He will give life to your mortal body.
TWO He will give life to your mortal body.
THREE He will give life to your mortal body through His Spirit –
ALL Who lives in you.

Week 3 | March 22, 2026 | Jesus Predicts His Death, Mark 8:31–38 NLT and MSG

By Kathryn Higgins

A scripture alive style presentation of Mark 8:31–38 featuring NLT and MSG translations. Speaker TWO takes on the voice of Jesus at times and speaker ONE supplements with narrative and emphasis. The tone is sincere. This would lead well into the sermon.

- ONE Jesus began to tell the disciples,
- TWO “The Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law.”
- TWO He told them he would be killed -
- BOTH -but three days later he would rise from the dead.
- TWO He talked about this openly with his disciples.
- ONE He said this simply and clearly so they couldn’t miss it.
- TWO But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things.
- ONE Jesus turned around and looked at his disciples, then reprimanded Peter.
- TWO “Get away from me, Satan!”
- ONE -he said.
- TWO “You are seeing things merely from a human point of view-
- BOTH -not from God’s.”
- ONE Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said,
- TWO “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross –
- BOTH “-and follow me.”
- TWO “If you try to hang on to your life” -
- BOTH -“you will lose it.”
- TWO “But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News” –

BOTH -“you will save it.”

TWO “And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?”

BOTH “Is anything worth more than your soul?”

ONE (*Aside*) What could you ever trade your soul for?

TWO “If any of you are embarrassed over me and the way I’m leading you when you get around your fickle and unfocused friends,”-

BOTH -“know that you’ll be an even greater embarrassment to the Son of Man”-

TWO -“when he arrives in all the splendor of God, his Father, with an army of the holy angels.”

Week 3 | March 22, 2026 | On the Cross, Luke 23:32-43 MSG

By Kathryn Higgins

Echoing the scripture used in the Kids5, this scripture alive style presentation of Luke 23:32-43 MSG for three voices is sincere in tone. THREE often takes on the voice of Jesus while ONE and TWO play multiple characters. Character-focused vocal differentiation is encouraged. Lines should be spoken outward to the back of the house unless otherwise indicated.

ONE Two others-

TWO -both criminals-

ONE -were taken along with Jesus for execution.

THREE When they got to the place called Skull Hill,

ALL -they crucified him-

ONE -along with the criminals, one on his right, the other on his left.

TWO Jesus prayed,

THREE “Father, forgive them; they don’t know what they’re doing.”

ONE Dividing up his clothes, they threw dice for them.

TWO The people stood there staring at Jesus.

ONE The ringleaders made faces –

ONE & TWO -taunting-

ONE “He saved others. Let’s see him save himself!

TWO “The Messiah of God.”

ONE & TWO “Ha!”

ONE “The Chosen.”

ONE & TWO “Ha!”

ONE The soldiers also came up and poked fun at him, making a game of it.

TWO They toasted him with sour wine-

ONE “So you’re King of the Jews! Save yourself!”

THREE Printed over him was a sign *(beat)* this is the king of the jews.

ONE One of the criminals hanging alongside cursed him,

TWO *(As the first criminal)* “Some Messiah you are! Save yourself! Save us!”

ONE But the other one made him shut up,

TWO *(As the second criminal)* “Have you no fear of God? You’re getting the same as him. We deserve this, but not him-“

ONE & TWO “—he did nothing to deserve this.”

TWO *(To THREE)* “Jesus, *(beat)* remember me when you enter your kingdom.”

(Beat)

ONE Jesus said,

THREE *(To TWO)* “Don’t worry, I will. *(Beat)* Today you will join me in paradise.”

Week 4 | March 29, 2026 | After the Sabbath, Mark 16:1-8 NLT, GNT

By Samuel I. Laro

A scripture alive style presentation of Mark 16:1-8 featuring NLT and GNT translations. Speaker ONE is a narrator of sorts. The tone is a little silly, while still reflecting the light of the new day. This echoes the Kids5 content for the week.

ONE Very early on Sunday -

TWO - after the Sabbath was over, -

THREE - just at sunrise, -

FOUR - three women went to the tomb where Jesus was laid.

ONE Their names were –

TWO Mary Magdalene.

THREE Mary, the mother of James

FOUR and Salome.

ONE On the way to the tomb, they asked each other -

2, 3, & 4 “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?”

ONE It was a very large stone. But as they arrived-

TWO - they looked up.

THREE Can you guess what they saw?

FOUR The stone –

ONE - which was still very large! –

2, 3, & 4 - had already been rolled away!

ONE They entered the tomb to care for Jesus’ body.

TWO They saw something unusual.

THREE They saw a young man –

FOUR - dressed in white.

ONE When they saw this, the women were... let’s just say...

TWO Shocked?!

THREE Alarmed?!

FOUR Panicked?!

ONE Yeah, any of those will do. (*moving on*) But then, the angel in white said to them -

TWO “Don’t be alarmed!

THREE I know you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified.

FOUR He is not here!

ALL He has been raised!

THREE Just look at where they laid his body.”

ONE The angel went on –

TWO “Now go –

THREE And give this message to his disciples.

FOUR Jesus has gone ahead of you to Galilee

THREE There he will meet you there.

TWO There you will see him again.

ONE So, they left and they ran away from the tomb. I guess you could say they were still –

TWO Shocked?!

THREE Alarmed?!

FOUR Panicked?!

ONE Yes, but... more than that, something had changed. They, just like us, were –

TWO New,

THREE Free,

ALL And full of life.

Week 4 | March 29, 2026, | The Promise of Easter, Jeremiah 31:1-6 & Colossians 3:1-4

By Samuel I. Laro

In the style of scripture alive, a presentation of scripture for two voices (or more, based on need) based on Jeremiah 31:1-6 and Colossians 3:1-4 from the NLT and GNT. The piece is a declaration, a reflection of God's promise/plan for the totality of time. Performers should speak boldly and without hesitation.

ONE Our God is the God of all the tribes of Israel.

TWO All the tribes of Israel are his people.

ONE In the desert he showed us mercy

TWO even as we faced the destruction of sin.

ONE He provided blessings even in the barren land.

TWO When we longed for rest, -

ONE - he appeared to us.

TWO The Father has loved us his constant love.

ONE He has loved His children with an everlasting love.

TWO With His unfailing love, He has drawn Himself to us.

ONE Once again, He has rebuilt us.

TWO Once again, He has made us glad.

ONE Once again, we can take up our tambourine and dance joyfully.

TWO Through the fulfillment of His promise, we will once again plant our vineyards on the mountains of Samaria.

ONE Those who plant them will eat what the vineyard produces.

TWO Since we have been raised to new life with Christ, we must set our sights –

ONE - our hearts –

TWO on the realities of Heaven.

ONE Keep your mind fixed on things on there -

TWO Not the things of Earth.

ONE You have died to this life.

TWO Your life is hidden with Christ.
ONE Your real life is Christ.
TWO When He is revealed to the whole world, -
ONE When He appears to us all –
TWO Another promise will come to pass.
ONE When He appears –
TWO you too will appear with Him.
BOTH/ALL And share in all His glory.