

Drama sketches

There are two drama sketches

- ◆ **What were you building?**
- ◆ **Vocation, vacation**

Drama is an effective medium for promoting reflection on the theme of a service. Here are two sketches which pick up the idea of vocation.

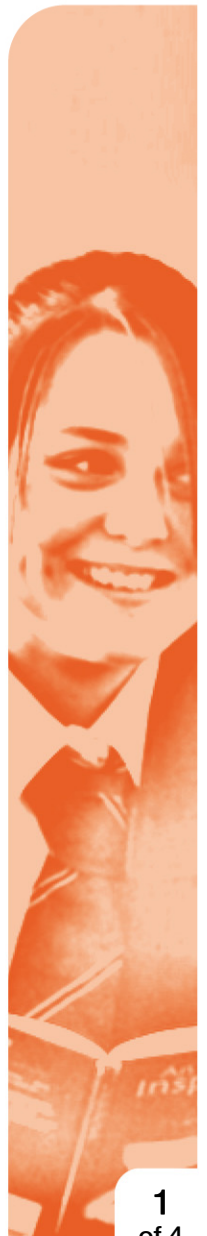
What were you building?

The theme of this sketch is the need for Christians to apply their faith to **what** they do at work, as much as the **way** they do it.

Characters: Graham, a builder
Doug, his friend

Graham and Doug are discussing the church service over coffee. They could have their scripts disguised as church notice sheets, but the sketch will have more impact if they learn the words. Feel free to change the gender of the characters if that suits your setting.

- Graham Morning, Doug. How are you doing?
- Doug Oh, hello Graham. I'm fine, thanks. Good service this morning, wasn't it?
- Graham Yes, although I got punched in the stomach by an enthusiastic six-year-old during that chorus with actions.
- Doug Dear me – church is getting more dangerous every week. I got rather distracted by Mr Cooper's snoring during the sermon. It was a bit loud today, wasn't it?
- Graham You're telling me. Anyway, what did you think of the sermon then?
- Doug Oh lovely sermon, lovely sermon. *(pause)* Well, no, actually to be honest, it just left me feeling really guilty.
- Graham Guilty? Why? You haven't been helping yourself to the communion wine out of the cupboard again have you?
- Doug No – that was only the once and it was an emergency. No, it's just all that stuff about being a Christian at work and witnessing about your faith to your workmates. I'm just rubbish at all that.
- Graham Oh, it's not that hard once you get into it. You just have to think things through a bit in advance.
- Doug But it can't be easy for you, being a builder. I mean, building sites aren't exactly the most refined of places. And builders have got a bit of a reputation for being, well how can I put it, a bit coarse – no offence, mate.



- Graham None taken. But it's still possible to be a Christian builder and to do things differently to everyone else. Take that big project I was working on a few months ago. There were lots of opportunities to demonstrate my faith by the way I did things.
- Doug Like what, then?
- Graham Well, I always made sure I turned up on time for example, didn't drag my lunch-hour out like all the other guys did, and I never bunked off early. That made an impression.
- Doug I guess it would.
- Graham And I made sure I didn't swear! You're right, the language can be a bit fruity on a building site, but I just stuck to 'bother' even when I dropped a scaffolding pole on my foot.
- Doug Well, that's very impressive, Graham, very impressive.
- Graham Now, some of the lads were pilfering the building supplies and selling them off to the locals. I kept clear of all that. And I made sure I didn't get plastered with the plasterers – I had a few drinks of course, just to be sociable, but I kept my head.
- Doug Well done, mate. Looks like you did really well.
- Graham And some of the lads were rather homesick, seeing as they were so far from home. So I spent a few evenings listening to people's woes and trying to encourage them.
- Doug Graham, sounds like you were a model Christian at work. I could learn a lot from you.
- Graham Well, you know, I was just trying to do my best.
- Doug I bet God was very pleased with you mate, well done. By the way, what was it you were building?
- Graham It was a training camp – for some guy called Bin Laden.

Using this sketch

Having a Christian approach to our work is about more than being 'sweet-tongued and punctual and not stealing the paperclips' as Ann Holt expresses it in her clip (*Teaching as a Christian*) on the DVD. Of course, our behaviour at work is important, but so is the content of the actual work that we are involved in. Graham has put a lot of thought into what his behaviour communicates, but doesn't seem to have paid any attention to what he was actually building. Did Graham need to think more deeply about applying his faith to his work? We need to ask the question, 'Does the actual work that I do contribute to the Kingdom of God or detract from it?' as well as 'Does my behaviour at work communicate Jesus to those around me?'

So Christian teachers, for example, will want to think about the content of the curriculum that they are teaching, as well as how they relate to staff and pupils. They need to be thinking 'How can I teach Maths, or Languages, or Science, in a way that is authentically Christian?', 'How can I open up pupils' minds to the wonder of God's world rather than communicating a purely secular worldview?'



Vocation, vacation

This is a light-hearted introduction to the theme of vocation. It relies on Sharon thinking she's seeing a vacation adviser, rather than a vocation adviser, but she does need to say the word 'vocation' in her opening line to set-up the misunderstanding.

Again, this will have more impact if the actors learn their lines. Change the gender and names of the actors if that suits your context better.

Characters: Sharon, a young woman
Jackie, a vocation adviser

Jackie sits behind a desk at the start of the sketch. Sharon approaches from one side.

Sharon Hello, are you Jackie Smith, the vocations advisor? My Mum made an appointment for me, and I'm not sure if I'm in the right place. I'm Sharon Harper.

Jackie Yes, that's me. Welcome, Sharon. Do sit down and make yourself at home. So you want some advice about discovering the best vocation for you?

Sharon Yes, that's right. I've got lots of ideas of course, but it's so difficult making a decision isn't it? There's so much choice out there. I just want to make sure that I do the right thing for me.

Jackie Of course, well that's my job, to get you talking about what you want to do so that you can work out the direction you should be heading in. Now your Mum sent me your CV but tell me what you've been thinking about so far.

Sharon Well, I want somewhere that's completely different – you know, a complete change of scenery from my office job.

Jackie OK, and what do you do for work at the moment?

Sharon I work for an insurance company, handling claims. I just sit at my desk all day – it's so boring.

Jackie I see, so you'd prefer something where you can interact with people more?

Sharon Yes, I love meeting new people. I still keep in contact with the person I sat next to on the plane to Marbella last year. We got on really well.

Jackie OK, and were you thinking of going abroad then, or do you want to stay in this country?



- Sharon Definitely abroad – the weather's so much better. I can't stand the idea of soggy sandwiches for lunch in the rain. I want to be eating my lunch in the sun on the beach.
- Jackie Right, well this is all helping to build up a picture of what's going to suit you. Tell me, Sharon, about the things you do in your spare time – what really excites you so that you want to do more of it in the future?
- Sharon Well, last year I tried waterskiing in Marbella which was amazing. I'd love to do windsurfing in the future. And of course I just love lazing around on the beach.
- Jackie I think that's true for all of us, Sharon! Well, I know we've only had a short conversation but I think I've built up a bit of a picture of the kind of person you are, so I'd like to make an initial recommendation. You want something completely different, something overseas, somewhere hot, to be able to eat your lunch on the beach . . . I think your ideal job is as a water sports instructor in a Mediterranean resort – somewhere like Turkey, for example.
- Sharon Job? You're suggesting what job I do? I wanted you to tell me where to go on holiday!
- Jackie Holiday? Why should I know anything about holidays?
- Sharon Because you're a vacations adviser!
- Jackie No, vo-cation – you know, working out what you should be doing with your life.
- Sharon Oh, I've never heard of one of them before. I wondered why you needed a copy of my CV. So you don't have any suggestions for where I should go on holiday this year?
- Jackie Try Bournemouth.

Using this sketch

There's no deep, hidden meaning to this sketch. It's just a light-hearted introduction to the theme of vocation. But you could pick up on vocation being an unusual word that we don't hear very often in everyday life. You could also refer to Sharon's comment about there being so many different things to choose from, and wanting advice about the right thing for her. That applies as much to work as it does holidays, but choosing what work we do is rather more significant than where we go on vacation.

