

CHARACTERS

<i>Angel</i>	<i>top centre</i>
<i>Jake - beardless man</i>	<i>front centre</i>
<i>Theo</i>	<i>off-stage narrator</i>
<i>Farmer - black beard</i>	<i>front right</i>
<i>Shepherd - white beard</i>	<i>front left</i>
<i>Sheep</i>	<i>all over!</i>
<i>Woman</i>	<i>front left</i>
<i>Father - king</i>	<i>front left</i>

Angel up

SONG: IF YOU THINK YOU'RE STANDING FIRM

Angel down

SCENE 1: A PIG STY

Jake up

Jake Standing firm? I thought I was standing on top of the world. I thought I had it made.

Theo Poor Jake. Standing firm? Oh, he'd fallen, all right.

Jake What a fool I've been! Oh, what am I to do?

Farmer up

Farmer What's all this? You're meant to be working, boy.
 These pigs won't feed themselves, you know.

'BOO!' placard

Jake I know, sir. I'm sorry, sir.

Theo Poor Jake. The farmer didn't know how hard it was for
 a Jewish boy to look after pigs.

Farmer Well, get on with it, then. Honestly, this pig sty is just
 the right place for you. In fact, I think you're even
 lazier than these pigs.

'BOO!' placard

Theo Poor Jake. Standing firm? He'd sunk just about as low
 as he could go.

Jake I'm sorry, sir. I'll try to do better. It's just ... well, I'm
 not used to this kind of work.

Farmer No, I can see that. In fact, I wonder whether you're
 used to any kind of work at all. If you were my son, I'd
 be ashamed of you.

'BOO!' placard

Jake That's just why I'm here. I can't go back home. I've let my dad down too badly. I've got to look after these pigs, because I've nowhere else to go.

Farmer Can't say I'm surprised. And if I catch you being lazy again instead of working, then you won't be welcome here either. Now get on with it!

'BOO!' placard

Farmer down

Theo Poor Jake. Life hadn't always been like this. Once, he'd lived at home with his dad and his brother. Their dad was a rich man. Living there with him, Jake was safe and loved, and had everything he needed.

Jake What was I thinking? Why ever did I leave home? Oh, *why* did I do it?

Theo Why? Because Jake had thought that he knew better than his dad. He'd wanted to have fun and see the world. He'd wanted to party with his friends and spend lots of money. And he'd told his dad just how he felt.

Jake Oh, I feel so ashamed. How could I have said those things to Dad?

Theo No wonder Jake felt ashamed. He'd told his dad that he was fed up of living with him - fed up of doing what he was told - and he wanted his share of the family money *now*, so that he could go and live the life of his dreams.

Jake The life of my dreams? More like a nightmare! I've spent all my money. Nobody cares about me. I'm so hungry that even the pig food looks tempting.

Theo But even that wasn't the worst thing.

Jake All I want is to go home. All I want is my dad. But the worst thing is: I've blown it. I've behaved so badly that I can never go back. Oh, *what* can I do?

SONG: I WILL CALL UPON THE LORD

Theo And poor Jake was so tired and sad that he fell fast asleep.

Jake and pig scenery down

SCENE 2: THE LOST SHEEP

Theo And he began to dream ...

Sheep scenery up

Theo In Jake's dream, he saw a shepherd.

Shepherd up

Theo The shepherd was counting his sheep.

Shepherd ...92...93...94...95...96...97...98...99...

...99...

...99...

Oh, no. There should be 100.

Farmer up

'BOO!' placard

Farmer What's all this? What are you messing about at? Why, you're as lazy as my pig man.

'BOO!' placard

Shepherd Sorry, sir. There should be 100 sheep but I can only find 99.

Farmer Oh, you've probably miscounted. I bet you're rubbish at counting.

'BOO!' placard

Shepherd No, sir. I counted really carefully. I counted twice. I know that one of the sheep is missing.

Farmer Oh, what does it matter? They're only sheep, after all. Stupid creatures, sheep. Always getting lost.

'BOO!' placard

Shepherd But, sir. That sheep's just as important as all the others. And it's lost. It could be stuck somewhere. Or hurt. Or scared. I *must* find it.

Farmer What an idiot! There are 99 other sheep, aren't there? What does one more or less matter?

'BOO!' placard

Farmer Oh, suit yourself. I'm going home to bed. If you want to spend half the night looking for a silly lost sheep, that's up to you.

'BOO!' placard

Farmer down

Theo And that's just what that good shepherd did. All night long he searched for his poor lost sheep.

Shepherd faces left

Sheep up - front right

Shepherd Sheep! Oh, sheep! Where are you?

Theo He's behind you!

Sheep down as Shepherd turns round to face right

Shepherd Sheep? Sheep? Oh, where *is* that sheep?

Shepherd faces left again

Sheep up - front right

Theo He's behind you!

Sheep down as Shepherd turns round to face right

Shepherd faces front again

Shepherd Oh, that poor lost sheep. Sheep! Sheep?

Sheep up - top

Theo He's behind you!

Sheep down as Shepherd turns round to face back

Shepherd faces front/right again

Shepherd Sheep! Sheep! Please come back to me. I'm not cross with you. I just want to look after you.

Sheep up - front right

Shepherd Oh, sheep! You're back! I've found you! Hallelujah!

Theo And the good shepherd was so excited that he called all his friends and neighbours.

Shepherd Come quick! Celebrate with me! I've found my lost sheep!

Angel, Jake and Woman up

Theo Come on, everyone. Let's have a party with the shepherd. Stand up and join in the actions to our next song.

Song words up

SONG: OUR GOD IS A GREAT BIG GOD

Angel, Shepherd, Sheep, Woman and sheep scenery down

SCENE 3: THE LOST COIN

Jake Wow! What a dream! That shepherd never gave up on his lost sheep, did he?

Theo But Jake still didn't get it. He didn't see the meaning of his dream.

Jake Pity real life's not like my dream.

Theo And poor, tired Jake lay down to sleep again.

Jake down

Theo Jake began to dream again...

Coins up

Theo In his dream, he saw a woman.

Woman up

Theo The woman was counting some coins.

Woman 1...2...3...4...5...6...7...8...9...
...9...
...9...

Oh, no. There should be 10.

Farmer up

'BOO!' placard

Farmer What's all this? Haven't you finished yet? Why, you're even lazier than my pig man.

'BOO!' placard

Woman I'm sorry, sir. I know there should be 10 coins, but I can only find 9.

Farmer Ha! You're even worse at counting than my shepherd.

'BOO!' placard

Woman No, sir. I've counted really carefully. I've counted them twice.

Farmer So you've lost one? Is that what you're telling me?
Idiot!

'BOO!' placard

Woman Don't worry, sir. I'll keep looking for it. I don't mind how long it takes.

Farmer What rubbish! It's lost. You'll never find it now.

Woman Oh, I will, sir. I won't give up. I'll find it. You'll see.

Farmer Oh, no you won't!

'Oh, yes she will!' placard

Farmer Oh, no she won't!

'Oh, yes she will!' placard

Farmer Oh, no she won't!

'Oh, yes she will!' placard

Farmer Oh, no she...

Woman *coin up*

Found it!

Farmer What? Well ... you're still an idiot!

'BOO!' placard

Farmer down

Woman Oh, I found it! I found it! Hallelujah!

Theo And the good woman was so excited that she called all her friends and neighbours.

Woman Come quick! Celebrate with me! I've found my lost coin!

Angel, Jake, Shepherd and Sheep up

SONG: 10 SILVER COINS

Angel, Shepherd, Sheep, Woman and coins down

SCENE 4: JAKE GOES HOME

Jake Wow! What a dream! That woman never stopped looking for her lost coin, did she? She didn't give up until she'd found it.

Theo Was Jake beginning to understand at last?

Jake Oh, if only real life was like my dreams. If only my dad was like that good shepherd, who never stopped looking for his sheep. If only he was like that woman, who never stopped looking for her coins.

I know it's too much to ask. I've been so very bad. Dad won't waste any time looking for me.

But maybe ...

Just maybe ...

Theo And with that, Jake said goodbye to the pigs and set off home.

Jake down

SONG: ROLL AWAY YOUR STONE ~1'44"-2'10"

House scenery up

Father up - top

Theo Jake's dad had been looking and looking. Every day he stared out over the land, longing to see his lost son. He saw Jake coming when he was still a long way off, and he ran to meet him.

Father down

Jake up

Jake Maybe ... just maybe ...

Father up - front

Father Jake! I'm so happy to see you!

Jake I'm sorry, Dad. I've behaved so badly. I know I don't deserve to be called your son any more. But maybe ... maybe you could let me work on your farm. Like a servant.

Theo Jake's dad knew that he was sorry. He had never stopped loving Jake. And now he was bursting with happiness because Jake had come home again.

Father Come quick! Celebrate with me! I've found my lost son!

Angel up

Theo Yes, come on, everyone. Let's have a party with Jake and his dad. Stand up and join in the actions to our next song.

Song words up

SONG: I KNOW JESUS LOVES ME (1 VERSE)

Farmer up

Farmer Stop! Stop! What's all this?

'BOO!' placard

Theo Oh, dear. I think you'd better sit down.

Angel, Jake, Father and words down

Farmer What rubbish! Jesus doesn't love me!

'Oh, yes he does!' placard

Farmer Oh, no he doesn't!

'Oh, yes he does!' placard

Farmer Oh, no he doesn't! I know you think God is like Jake's dad, who never stopped looking for his lost son. But I know how bad I've been. Even if God used to love me, he doesn't any more. Not after how bad I've been.

'Oh, yes he does!' placard

Farmer Oh, no he doesn't!

'Oh, yes he does!' placard

Farmer Oh, no he doesn't! It's all very well for lost sheep and coins, and for a boy like Jake who made a few mistakes. I'm sorry for how bad I've been. But it's too late for me. God can't possibly love me any more.

'Oh, yes he does!' placard

Farmer Oh, no he doesn't!

'Oh, yes he does!' placard

Farmer Oh, no he doesn't! I'm the baddy, aren't I? I bet God gave up on me long ago. Why wouldn't he?

Theo Why wouldn't he? Because he made you and he loves you. You can never be bad enough to stop God loving you.

Farmer *Really?* Can that be true? Surely ... surely God doesn't love *even* people as bad as me?

'Oh, yes he does!' placard

Farmer Oh, wow! It *is* true! God even loves *me*!

Theo Yes he does. Let's celebrate!

Stand up and join in the actions with us.

Angel, Shepherd, Jake, Father, Woman and words up

SONG: I KNOW JESUS LOVES ME