[Otto and Daphne enter stage. Daphne is pushing Otto, because Otto is out of gas. Otto is also dusty.]

Daphne: [making pushing, straining sounds] Finally, we made it. Otto, next time we've got to be more careful not to run out of gas.

Otto: Yeah, I'm real sorry I didn't mention how low it was getting.

Daphne: Honk your horn to see if anyone is here.

Otto: [loud honk]

Seymour: [enters stage] Howdy folks! Welcome to the Last Chance Fillin Station. Seymour Goode at your service. What can I do for you today?

Daphne: We need a fill-up.

Otto: I hope you've got plenty of gas, because I'm plum empty.

Seymour: We can sure take care of that problem. [hold nozzle and hose up to Otto] Say, I'm not trying to be nosy, but most cars will come in for gas BEFORE they run out instead of AFTER.

Daphne: Yeah, that was our original plan. We were on our way to Humbletown. We had plenty of gas to get there, at least before we decided to take a detour.

Otto: A detour down a long dirt road at that. That's how I got so dusty. *[tries to shake some dust off]* I can't seem to shake it all off.

Daphne: Let me help. [hits the top of Otto with her hand] [effect: blow baby powder dust up into the air]

Seymour: [Coughs because of dust] Whew, you must have had a really good reason to want to take a detour on such a dusty road that even caused you to run out of gas. Guess you wish you hadn't done that now.

Otto: On no, I don't regret it a bit.

Daphne: Me neither.

Seymour: [not understanding] You mean you like being all dirty and having to push into the gas station?

Daphne: Well, that part isn't so great, but we had a neighbor that needed a ride. So we had to take a LONGER [Otto: AND DIRTIER] route to Humbletown.

Otto: Ya see, our neighbor needed a ride to camp Lylewood today. So we offered to take a detour so we could drop her off at camp.

Seymour: [catching on] Ohh, so you're not saying that you liked getting dirty and running out of gas, but that helping your neighbor was worth the extra trouble you had.

Daphne: Now you understand.

Seymour: [remove nozzle] Well now that you're all filled up, you can be on your way.

Otto: Except that because of the detour, we don't know how to get back to the main hwy. So we have a little problem.

Grumble: [enters, rather obnoxiously] A little problem? Well, let me tell you something buster, we pump gas around here. Solving problems will cost you extra. Besides, I've got my own little problem.

Seymour: [Chuckles] That would be me. He calls me his little problem. Mr.Grumble says that I ain't running on all my cylinders.

Grumble: That's car talk for "ain't too smart".

Daphne: I see. [looking toward Mr. Grumble] I take it that you are Mr. Grumble.

Grumble: That's right, Osborne T. Grumble. You wanna hear about problems? I'm underpaid and overworked, the filling station owner, Mr. Phil R. Upp, gives me a half-wit to help out around here, and I've got a toothache.

Seymour: Mr. Grumble, this is Otto and Daphne, I just met them while ago, but they are really nice.

Grumble: Well they look like a couple of dummy do-gooders to me. I overheard that whole story about how they gave some silly little girl a ride to summer camp and that caused them to get dirty, run out of gas and now they're lost to top it off. I think you folks should learn how to watch out for yourselves and not worry about what other folks need.

[Grumble is looking at other puppets, Other puppets are all looking straight ahead so they don't see or hear the devil puppet]

Devil: [quickly enters stage behind Grumble] [wicked laugh] You tell them Grumble. [quickly exits stage]

Grumble: [turns around looks up and down for where that sound came from, but doesn't find it]

Grumble: [resume conversation with other puppets] I'll tell you what, I'll tell you how to get back to the main hwy if it'll get you out of here any quicker. Just go 5 miles that way and take a left onto the main hwy.

Daphne and Otto: Okay, thank you. [exit stage]

Grumble: I just don't understand where folks like that get the idea that they gotta help others out all the time.

Seymour: You may not think I'm so smart sometimes Mr. Grumble, but I know the answer to that question.

Grumble: Tell me if you know.

Seymour: I think I'll just give you a hint and see if you can figure it out for yourself. I'm only going to say this once though so listen carefully. [spell slowly] G O D S W O R D.

Grumble: auggh, you know I can't spell that good.

[Grumble and Seymour Goode begin walking off stage]

Grumble: [repeats spelling a little quicker] **GODS WORD**. You've always got to make everything a puzzle. How am my supposed to figure that out?

Seymour: If you look and try hard enough you'll find the answer.

Grumble & **Seymour**: [exit stage]

[flip "To be continued" sign over stage.]

Grumble and Seymour [enters stage]

Grumble: Well I figured it out. At least I figured out what you spelled out to me last night. *[Flips "Gods Word" sign over front of stage] [pronounce distinctly]* GODS WORD. I have no idea how that answers my question about why your friends go around helping people and causing themselves all kinds of problems because of it, though.

Seymour: You just keep thinking about it Mr. Grumble. If you look and try hard enough, you'll find the answer.

Grumble: I can't waste my time solving your silly little puzzles, I've got a fillin station to run!

Seymour: Say, I think I hear my new friends from yesterday coming down the road.

[Otto and Daphne pull into station. Otto makes car engine noise and honks his horn]

Seymour: Hey, welcome back guys.

Otto: Thanks, it sure is nice to see a familiar face after a long trip like we've had.

Daphne: Yeah, and I'm sure relieved that this time we made it to your station BEFORE we ran out of gas.

Grumble: We'll at least you're getting smarter.

Daphne: Well thank you. We're sitting right on empty, but not quite out.

Seymour: I guess you guys need a fillup then.

Otto: That's certainly what I need. We've still got a long trip ahead of us before we get home. *[leans over and whispers in Seymour Goode's ear]* We just have one little problem though.

Grumble: Hey, what's that whispering about. There'll be no secrets at my fillin station.

Daphne: Well Mr. Grumble, I know how you are about helping out with other people's problems, but we don't have enough money left to buy the gas that we need to get home.

Otto: Ya see Mr. Grumble, the neighbor that we gave a ride to, well, she accidentally left her money at her house when we gave her a ride yesterday. Since she was going to be at camp for a whole week, we pitched in what would have been our gas money so that she would have lunch money for her week at camp.

Daphne: We really had a very good reason for spending our gas money.

Grumble: Well now I take back what I said.

Otto: You mean you take back the part about not caring about anybody else's problem?

Grumble: Hah. I stick by that! What I take back is the part about you two getting smarter. Now I think you're going in reverse. Ya'll are stupider today than you were yesterday.

[pause-awkward silence]

Seymour: Hey Mr. Grumble, I have an idea, maybe we could sell them gas on credit.

Grumble: Hah. Evidently you have no idea what it's like to work for Mr. Phil R Upp. Haven't you read the sign. "No Shirt, No Shoes, No Service and absolutely No Credit." Besides maybe this will teach your friends a lesson not to be such do-gooders and helping other folks all the time.

[Grumble is looking at other puppets, Other puppets are all looking straight ahead so they don't see or hear the devil puppet]

Devil: [quickly enters stage behind Grumble] [wicked laugh] You teach'em a lesson. [quickly exits stage]

Grumble: [turns around looks up and down for where that sound came from, but doesn't find it] [puzzled]

Seymour: I know why they act the way they do and I'll give you another hint. I'm only going to say this once so listen carelfully. [spell slowly] **HOLY BIBLE**.

Grumble: auggh, you know I can't spell that good. [spells quickly] **HOLY BIBLE**. How am I supposed to figure that out? Auh, enough of your puzzles. It's almost closing time. Seymour, why don't you go call their mom and dad to come pick them up and then you can go on home. I'll wait here with them til their parents get here. How about that?

Otto: Well, I guess that would be pretty good. At least we wouldn't be waiting all by ourselves.

Seymour: Okay, I'll do that. See ya tomorrow Mr. Grumble. Bye Otto and Daphne. [exits stage]

Daphne: That sure is nice of you Mr. Grumble.

Grumble: Well not really.

Otto: No really, it is.

Grumble: I sent Seymour home because he's too good-hearted. He would have stayed here all night with you guys while you wait. I need him to get a good nights rest so he's fresh for work in the morning.

Daphne: Well that's nice of you to wait with us yourself instead.

Grumble: No, I've got to go too. It's supper time at my house so I can't stay. You guys will probably be okay anyway. We haven't had any coyotes around here for several weeks now.

Otto: Mr. Grumble, do you think we could a least wait inside your garage?

Grumble: Not a chance. I can't trust strangers to be in Mr. Phil R Upps business at night. Good luck. Oh, I've got to turn the lights off. Saves electricity you know. [shut off spotlights and turn down auditorium lights.] [exits stage]

[pause]

Daphaine: Otto, I'm scared!

Otto: I'm just closing my eyes and hoping your parents get here real soon. Let's sit over here and wait.

[Daphne and Otto exit stage]

[flip "to be continued" sign over stage front]

Osborne T. Grumble, Seymour Goode: [enter stage]

Grumble: Well I figured another one of your puzzles. At least I figured out what you spelled out to me last night. *[Flips "Holy Bible" sign over front of stage] [pronounce distinctly]* HOLY BIBLE. I have no idea how it answers my question about why your friends go around helping people and causing themselves all kinds of problems though. I declare, Seymour, the next time you think about making a puzzle, why don't you make one that has a point.

Seymour: You just keep thinking about it Mr. Grumble. If you look and try hard enough, you'll find the answer.

Grumble: I can't waste my time pondering your silly little puzzles. Just like I couldn't waste my time hanging around with your friends last night til their parents came to get them.

Seymour: What did you just say Mr. Grumble? Did you say that you didn't wait with Daphne and Otto til their parents came and got them?

Grumble: Yeah, I needed to get home for supper. Besides it was getting dark and I don't like being at the fillin station after dark.

Seymour: So you just left them up here after dark all by themselves. And you lied to me so that I went home thinking that you were going to stay with them?

Grumble: [pause] Well, I guess that's about how it happened.

Seymour: I can't believe you did that! I've got to go call right away and make sure they are all right. *[exits stage]*

[coordinated action scene]

Grumble: [alone on stage, looking to right side of audience] Boy, that Seymour sure can get all bent out of shape worrying about other people and their problems.

Devil: [pop in from the left.] That's for sure. [quickly ducks]

Grumble: [looks to left]

Devil: [pop in from right.] Over here. [quickly ducks]

Grumble: [looks to right]

Devil: [come up directly behind Grumble]

Grumble: [looks up, then down, then left w/Devil staying right behind him til Grumble

finally manages to see him.]

Grumble: Ah Ha! Caught ya!

Devil: More like I caught you.

Grumble: I don't know what you mean by that.

Devil: Never mind.

Grumble: I'd sure like to know who you are and why you've been sneaking around and talking behind my back these last several days.

Devil: Who I am is not important. But what is important is that I've been VERY IMPRESSED with the way you been treating Seymour Goode and all of your customers. I just wish EVERYONE could be more like you.

Grumble: How do you know how I've been acting lately?

Devil: Let's just say I'm one of your biggest fans.

Grumble: What's your name?

Devil: Like I said, that's not important. I'm just someone who really wants to be your

friend. I think you and me are going to be FOREVER friends.

Grumble: Wait a minute! That's the first time I can ever remember someone saying they really wanted to be my friend. Ya see, I'm one of those people who always looks out for myself. I hardly ever do anything that benefits somebody else.

Devil: Yeah, I know. Wouldn't it be great if more folks were just like you?

Grumble: [pause for thought] Well, No! When I start to think about it, that's the craziest thing I've ever heard. [pause] Little red man, I want you to leave my fillin station. You're giving me the creeps.

Devil: I'm not believing this! I'm offering to be your "forever" friend and you're telling me to leave.

Grumble: [loudly] Yeah, that's right! Get lost little red man and don't come back! [slaps devil with hand a few times]

Devil: I'll leave for now, but just as soon as you start acting like the mean ole person you are, I'll be back. *[exits stage]*

Seymour: [enters stage] Mr. Grumble, I'm sure you'll be happy to know that Otto and Daphne made it home safe and sound last night.

Grumble: yeah, [then just silent stare]

Seymour: Mr. Grumble *[pause]*, Mr. Grumble, is something wrong? You look like you've seen a ghost.

Grumble: I don't think it was a ghost. It was worse. It was a little red man that sent a spooky chill thru my whole body like I ain't never felt before.

Seymour: Ohh, that sounds scary.

Grumble: It was. He said he was PROUD of the way I'd been acting and wanted to be my FOREVER friend. It just didn't make any sense for someone to want to be my friend because of the way I've been acting. *[pause]* Seymour, I decided to take the afternoon off. Say, before I go, do you happen to have anymore of those puzzles that you're always giving me to think about?

Seymour: I thought you'd never ask. Today I have a really good one. I'm only going to say this once so listen carelfully. [spell slowly] D B L T D L.

Grumble: [repeat spelling quickly] DBLTDL, as usual I'm going to have to think about this a while. See ya tomorrow, Seymour. [walks of stage]

Seymour: Have a good day.

Seymour: I declare, Mr. Grumble looked to be very troubled about something. I'll have to be sure to keep him in my prayers. *[walks off stage]*

[flip "to be continue" sign over stage front]

Grumble, Seymour Goode: [enter stage]

Grumble: Well Seymour, I figured out your spelling puzzle again.

Seymour: Wow, I'm really surprised. The one I gave you last night was the hardest one yet.

Grumble: I just wrote down the letters again. See [flips "DBLTDL" sign over front of stage.]

[attempts to pronounce] dibletidle.

Seymour: say that again.

Grumble: dibletidle

Seymour: That's not even close this time. *[pause]* Hey, I have an idea. Why don't you ask Mr. Steve? This is something that he SHOULD know.

Grumble: Hey, Mr. Steve. Could you come over here please? I need your help. [Steve comes over and asks what you need]

Grumble: Seymour has given me some letters to decipher just like he does every night. This time I can't figure out what the letters mean. Can you tell me what DBLTDL means? [give Steve a little time to figure, but he can't figure it out]

Steve: [could guess dubletuble or doubletrouble.]

Grumble: That's a brilliant guess. But it's not that simple. Hey, I see a little kid in the audience with her hand up. [Molly Crawford is puzzle solving volunteer] Maybe she knows the answer. [yell to kid] Hey, little girl, do you know the answer? [kid says yes] Well come on down here and please tell us all what this means.

[maybe Mr. Steve will let her borrow his microphone]

Molly: [while pointing to each letter] Dusty Bibles Lead To Dirty Lives.

Seymour: Congratulations, you solved the puzzle!

Grumble: Dusty Bibles Lead To Dirty Lives. What a smart kid! Where did you learn that saying Seymour?

Seymour: Believe it or not, I heard it in one of Mr. Steve's sermons.

Grumble: Hey, I guess that little kid must have been listening to Mr. Steve's sermons even better than Mr. Steve does.

Seymour & Grumble: [giggle/laughter]

Otto and Daphne: [enter stage]

Seymour Good: [with excitement] Oh hi guys, it's so good to see you both are okay after what happened last night.

Daphne: [accusing tone] Yes in deed we are thankful to be alive after SOMEBODY left us up here at the fillin station in the dark.

Otto: We were all by ourselves for almost 2 whole hours before our parents got here.

Daphne: Seymour, we just came back personally tell you thanks for calling our parents last night and then calling to make sure we got home okay.

Seymour: My pleasure guys.

Grumble: Say Otto and Daphne, I wanted to tell you guys that I'm really sorry for leaving you like I did and I'm sorry I lied to you both and Seymour too.

Otto: You must be getting ready to play another one of your mean tricks?

[this part takes some coordinated and dramatic acting]

Grumble: I don't blame you for not trusting me after what I did, but I'd really like to make it up to you. How about I give you a free fill up on gas? [lift nozzle and hose in the air]

Daphne: [thinks Grumble is about to hit them][loudly] Look out Otto!, duck!!

Otto & Daphne: Aauhhhhh! [go ducking behind stage]

Otto & Daphne: [timidly peek back up from behind stage]

Daphne: Whew that as a close one!

Grumble: What was a close one? What are you talking about? I really want to make up for the way I've treated you two. If you've got time to stay for a while, I'll even give Otto a tune-up. [lift wrench up in the air]

Otto: [thinks Grumble is about to hit them again] [loudly] Watch your head, Daphne!

Otto & Daphne: Aauhhhhh! [go ducking behind]

Otto & Daphne: [timidly peek back up from behind stage]

Grumble: What are you two talking about? Nothing is going to hit your head.

Daphne: I figure that since you're being kind to us that you're just trying to set us up for another mean trick, like bopping us in the head or something.

Grumble: Oh, I see how you could think that, but I'm really trying to change my ways.

Otto: Really? Why the sudden change?

Grumble: It's really simple. I've not been acting the way I should lately. Seeing the kind-hearted way you and Daphne treat others and also figuring out all the puzzles that Seymour's been making got me to realizing that I needed to make some serious changes in my life. So yesterday afternoon, I decided go home early and find my Bible.

Bible: Did I hear somebody call for me? [shakes some dust particles off when entering stage]

Grumble: Here's my Bible now.

Bible: [still brushing off dust]. You'll have to excuse me for being a bit dusty. I've been sitting on Mr. Grumble's shelf for a very long time. Until yesterday that is.

Daphne: What happened yesterday?

Bible: Mr. Grumble came home from work early, came straight to me and started reading my pages. He kept mumbling something about if you "if you look and try hard enough, you'll find the answer."

Grumble: And I did find some answers. I found the story in Matthew where Jesus was telling his apostles that whatever you do to help someone in need is just like you did it to Jesus himself.

Otto: That's exactly the story that I think of whenever I see somebody who I can help. Daphne and I also make some great new friends by helping too.

Daphne: It's sort of like you're making friends with Jesus at the same time.

Grumble: Yeah, I guess it is. Making friends with Jesus. What a smart choice!

Seymour: Yes indeed it is! I just realized it's past closing time. Maybe we can talk about this more tomorrow night.

Grumble: Great idea.

All puppets: Tell each other good night, bye, see ya, etc. *[exit stage] [flip "to be continue" sign over stage front]*

Seymour & Grumble: [enter stage]

Grumble: It's hard to believe that it's already the last night of Vacation Bible School.

Seymour: Yeah, I know. I wish it wouldn't end. I'll bet you and me and all the kids could go for another 5 nights of Vacation Bible School! *[Looks at audience]* Right guys? [allow kids to respond]

Grumble: I know we could! BUT did you notice all the grownups starting to look just a little bit tired?

Seymour: Yes I noticed. Why do you think I called on Mr. Steve to answer that question last night? I noticed that he looked all tuckered out like he was about to take a nap.

Grumble: That was pretty funny how you put him on the spot like that and especially when he couldn't answer the question.

Seymour: [giggle] Yes, it was kind of funny, but it sure woke him up. [still laughing]

Grumble: It did. It's going to be even funnier the next time you get a little sleepy during one of his sermons and he decides to pick you out of the crowd to answer a question. [laugh]

Seymour: [suddenly serious] Ohhh! Surely he wouldn't do that. [look toward Steve]

Steve: [giving affirmative nod]

Grumble: I think he might.

Seymour: Humm, I think this would be an excellent time to change the subject. Hey look!! Here comes Daphne and Otto!

Daphne and Otto: [enter][Otto: honk horn]

Daphne: [with red spot on hand for a little blood]

Otto: I know you'd never guess, but we have a problem again.

Seymour: Oh no, what happened this time?

Daphne: I caught my hand in the latch on the station door and now I'm bleeding. I could really use a band-aid.

Grumble: Not a problem, I'll be right back. [leaves to get band-aid]

Otto: Wow, that's sure not the Mr. Grumble we knew a few days ago.

Daphne: Yeah, a few days ago, he would have said something like [impersonate grumpy Grumble's voice] "you got a problem, that'll cost you extra."

Otto: [impersonate grumpy Grumble's voice] Yeah or "I sure hope you didn't hurt my door."

Daphne & Otto: [laugh together]

Grumble: [reenters with band-aid] Here you go Daphne. This band-aid should help that cut to get better soon. [sticks band-aid on her arm]

Daphne: Thank you so much Mr. Grumble. We were just commenting on how much you've changed since the beginning of the week. It's hard to believe you're even the same person.

Grumble: Well, I guess in a lot of ways I'm not the same person. I have changed a lot since I started reading my Bible again.

Bible: Did I hear someone call my name?

Otto: Actually, we were just talking about you.

Bible: Look [leans over to show top] No more dust on me because Mr. Grumble has been reading me more often.

Grumble: You know, I was really confused a few days ago when that little red man kept coming around and offering to be my forever friend. Now that I'm reading my Bible [put hand on bible], I learned that Jesus is truly the one who should be our forever friend. I sure would like one last time to tell that little red man that I've chosen Jesus to be my forever friend and not him. The problem is that he only comes around when I'm being mean and selfish.

Daphne: Hey, I've got an idea. Let's trick him!

Otto: Yeah, let's pretend that Daphne and I are coming into the station with a problem and you can treat us like the OLD mean and selfish Mr. Grumble.

Seymour: That'll surely bring him out!

Grumble: okay, I like that idea. Then I'll have a chance to show him the new Osborne T. Grumble.

Daphne: Let's do it.

[all puppets leave stage except Grumble & Bible]

Bible: I'll stay here just in case you need me.

Grumble: Great idea.

Daphne: [from behind stage] Ready or not here we come.

Daphne & Otto: [enter stage, Daphaine with red spot on hand again]

Otto: Hi Mr. Grumble, we have a problem again.

Daphaine: I hurt my hand on the station door and now I'm bleeding. Do you think I could get a band-aid?

Grumble: [in his grumpy voice] Oh no!! Get outta here! You're bleeding on my floor!

Daphne: I know. That's why I really need a band-aid.

Grumble: You're going to scare my customers away. Go bleed somewhere else little girl. This isn't the doctor's office.

Devil: [enters behind Grumble] You tell'em like it is Grumble.

Grumble: [look at Devil] There you are. You know I tricked you today just so you'd come back one last time.

Devil: What do you mean, you tricked me? I'm the one who does the tricking.

Grumble: Not this time. I wanted you to come back this last time so that I could tell you that I've changed my ways. I've chosen Jesus to be my TRUE FOREVER friend.

Devil: [covers ears with hands] Auhh, don't say that name!

Grumble: What, JESUS?

Devil: Auhh, yes that name! It makes me hurt.

Devil: Hey, I have a great idea! We can BOTH be your "forever" friend. Didn't you know that you can have more than one friend?

Grumble: Not true. Bible, help me out here.

Bible: [with enthusiasm] Happy to. First, God's word makes it clear that you cannot be a friend to both Jesus and the devil. You've got to make your pick. Second, it also says that the devil is a liar. So there's no reason to believe anything you say.

Grumble: I'm still a long way from perfect, but I'm reading my bible and growing stronger every day and becoming more of what JESUS wants me to be.

Devil: [reaction to Jesus] Auhhh, Stop it! Stop saying that name!

Daphne: I think this conversation has got one too many people in it. Otto, what do ya say that we vanish the little red man.

Otto: Great idea!

Seymour: [enters stage]

Daphne: All together now. [repeat, use puppet hand motions too] Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!

Devil: [dramatic-act out painful and getting weaker body language] no, no, stop, I can't take it. Etc. [finally leaves completely]

Otto, Dapahne, Seymour, Grumble, Bible: [celebrate] yehhhh!!. So long! Etc...[shoot party poppers]

Grumble: Hey, Mr. Steve, let's sing the "Read Your Bible and Pray" song.

Puppets sing "Read your Bible and pray everyday..." song with Steve. [point to bible on "Read your Bible" line] [have bible leave stage on "neglect your bible" line]