

Drama Script

(DRA022)

The Auction

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DRAMA: “THE AUCTION” (DRA022)

- Aim of Script:** To open people’s eyes to the dehumanising issue of slavery.
- Use of Script:** In an All Age Worship service the script could come at the beginning of the service immediately after an opening prayer and time of sung worship.
- The script could be followed by saying that although two hundred years ago the trans-Atlantic slave trade was abolished, today human misery is happening on a far bigger scale. At least 27 million people around the world are living in slavery; men, women, boys and girls. You could then give examples of “modern day slavery” (resources can be found on the Tearfund web site at www.tearfund.org/). This could lead into teaching that Jesus placed freedom at the heart of his mission. We are worth so much to him that he gave up his life to set us free from our sin. Jesus calls his followers to follow him in setting the prisoners free and in releasing the oppressed.
- Main themes:** Slavery, freedom
- Biblical references:** Exodus 5:1-9, 22-6:1, Deuteronomy 5:6, Luke 4:16-21, Galatians 5:1
- Cast:** Auctioneer, Slave boy, Person 1, Person 2, Woman, Farmer, Clothing manager, Usher
- Props:** Slave boy dressed in ragged shirt and shorts and barefoot. Tin of sweets, table and hammer.
- Staging:** This drama works well if Person 1, Person 2, Woman, Farmer and Clothing Manager sit in the congregation in different places. When they bid, they stand up to speak and then sit down again.

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(Enter Auctioneer who walks and stands behind a table with the tin of sweets on it.)

Auctioneer: Welcome back to our auction this morning. We are now down to the last two items for sale....I hope you are ready to begin bidding again.

The first item is this unopened brand new tin of sweets.....surplus to requirements.

Let’s open with one pound. Do I hear one pound from anyone?

Person 1: One pound

Auctioneer: Any increase on one pound? One pound twenty?

Person 2: One pound twenty

Auctioneer: Do I hear one pound fifty from anyone?

Person 1: One pound fifty

Person 2: Two pounds

Auctioneer: These are very delicious sweets. Do I hear two pounds fifty?

Person 1: Two pound fifty

Person 2: Three pounds

Auctioneer: Any advance on three pounds? Do I hear three pounds ten from anyone?
(Pause)

No-one? For the last time three pounds.

Going, going, gone to the *lady / gentleman* on the middle row.

And now for our second and final item this morning. Bring him in.

(Enter Usher bringing in boy. Boy is lifted up to stand on the table. He looks blankly ahead as he is auctioned)

OK we have here a boy aged ten years old, in pretty good condition. You could use him in the home for all your domestic work, or out in the fields. He could also work well for you in a factory. What do I have for him? Let's start with five pounds.

Woman: I could do with someone to work for me and do all my chores. I'll pay five pounds.

Auctioneer: Any advance on five pounds?

Farmer: I need someone to work in my fields. I could use a strong lad. I'll pay ten pounds.

Auctioneer: Any advance on ten pounds? He's quite young still so you'll get plenty of years of work out of him.

Manager: I'll pay fifteen pounds for a boy to come and work in my clothing factory. We need more workers as the demand for cheap clothing is going up.

Auctioneer: Any advance on fifteen pounds?

Woman: He'll have to be up before daylight. I need water fetching from the well three miles away before breakfast. Eighteen pounds.

Farmer: I'll pay twenty pounds. He's quite small so he won't need much food and he should manage to work an eighteen hour day.

Manager: I could get him working longer than eighteen hours.....twenty five pounds.

Woman: Thirty pounds

Farmer: Forty pounds

Manager: Forty two pounds. (It all goes quiet for a few seconds)

Auctioneer: Do I hear any more than forty two pounds? This boy won't cost you much. He comes with a full set of clothes. (Silence for a few seconds)

For the last time any increase on forty two pounds for this twenty four hour a day slave? *(Silence for a few seconds)*

Going, going, gone! Sold to the Clothing Manager over there!

(Enter Usher who comes and takes the boy down from the table and leads him out. Auctioneer leaves)