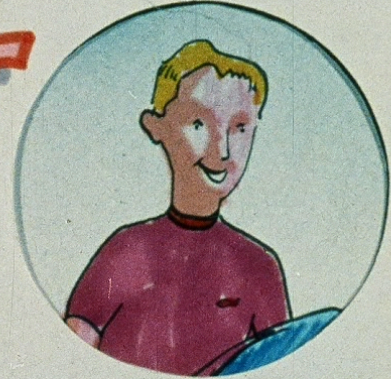


# Michael

## BROUGHT

## THEM



*Script by Rev. David Born    Illustrated by Rev. Jake Rosen*

*Rev. Kevin Parviz, ed.*

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The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
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*for*

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## Foreword to the 2020 edition:

This story was originally produced by our ministry in 1984 through the Board for Evangelism Services. The medium was film strip and cassette tape, and it was produced for Sunday School classes to help children understand prejudice, and to help children find ways to reach out to their friends who do not know Jesus. **I have edited this presentation and hope it will be useful today as a presentation and chancel drama for Sunday Schools or Lutheran Day Schools. My hope is to also produce it as a children's book.**

Rev. Dave Born wrote the script, and at that time served Our Savior Lutheran Church in Rego Park, New York. Dave was one of the early members of the Task Force on Witnessing to Jewish People, and later served as the Mission Executive for the Atlantic District. Dave has gone home to Y'shua, but I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to be friends with Dave. He was a true blessing to our ministry.

The artwork for this presentation is by Rev. Jake Rosen. Jake, a Jewish believer in Jesus, was born in Marseilles, France. His parents were refugees and Holocaust survivors who made their way to the St. Louis area. Jake attended art school at The Art Students League of New York, and soon after, received Jesus as Messiah. Later, receiving a BFA in Painting from Washington University School of Art, he continues to be active in the arts. Jake was ordained in 1991, and he serves Clayton Community Church in Rock Hill, Missouri, and he and his wife Jeanne also serve Beit Chesed Messianic Congregation, sharing space with Clayton Community Church. I marvel at the small world it is, that in 1984 our ministry found this young artist to help create this artwork, and now, I count Jake and Jeanne among my friends. God is so good!

Much has changed in our ministry since this was produced. So I thought I would take this opportunity to update the reader on what is going on in the LC-MS within Jewish missions.

In 1973, at the encouragement of Rev. Bruce Lieske, their pastor, St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Philadelphia submitted a memorial to the 1973 convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, titled "To Facilitate Gospel Proclamation among Jews." The synod ultimately referred this issue to an ad hoc committee, headed by Dr. Erwin J. Kolb, then the Executive Director for Evangelism of the LC-MS. You can find these and related documents in Witnessing to Jewish People by Bruce J. Lieske, which you can read or download from our website at [www.lije.org](http://www.lije.org) (Appendix A on page 148).

This beginning grew into what is now Lutherans in Jewish Evangelism (LIJE), founded in 1981. Rev. Lieske became its Founder and first Executive Director, and LIJE became the first mission society outreach of the LC-MS since World War II. There are 6,000,000 Jewish people in the United States, accounting for 45% of world Jewry.

To minister to this community, we help prepare congregations for ministry to Jewish people through preaching, teaching, writing and workshops while developing branches that are active and intentional in evangelism to the communities where God has placed them. We affirm and seek to be faithful to St. Paul's proclamation, ***“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile”*** (Romans 1:16).

The vision of LIJE is two-fold:

- First, LIJE seeks to engage in intentional evangelism within every significant Jewish community in the United States, sharing Y'shua (Jesus) with all people and especially the Jewish people.
- Secondly, LIJE seeks to connect congregations for training in evangelism and to help our churches understand the Jewish roots of their faith.

All of our resources are written to help facilitate those goals with the expressed goal of opening mission branches in every city in the United States with a population of 20,000 or more Jewish people. There are 39 such areas in this country!

When this drama was written and produced, I was much like Danny, not yet a believer in Jesus. I came to faith in 1991 through the ministry of St. John's Lutheran Church in Denver, and began my ministry with a Jewish outreach organization in Denver, CO, called Menorah Ministries where I was serving as a volunteer missionary on the campus at the University of Colorado. By 1996 I was attending Concordia Seminary and had not heard much about the existing Lutheran mission to the Jews when I met Steve Cohen. He was then the field counselor and advisor to LIJE. In 1996 he left Jews for Jesus and came full-time with LIJE and moved to St. Louis. We worked together to found The Apple of His Eye Mission Society, which was ostensibly intended to be a missionary training center, working with LIJE. But it ended up effectively operating as a competing mission to the Jews, causing a lot of confusion within our church body. So Steve and Bruce decided to separate their work. Steve left the ministry of LIJE but continued to operate under LIJE's street name of "The Apple of His Eye."

Because of all this confusion, LIJE determined to open new mission branches under the name of "Burning Bush Ministries" to distinguish itself from Steve's new ministry, and in 1999, opened a new branch of mission in Detroit, MI, the first of "Burning Bush Ministries."

However, two branches of ministry were still open, St. Louis and New York, operating under the "Apple of His Eye" name. Both branches were attached to messianic-Lutheran congregations, Congregation Beth El in Queens, New York was sharing space with Our Savior Lutheran Church in Rego Park, the other congregation is Congregation Chai v'Shalom in St. Louis, where I have the privilege of pastoring.

Congregation Chai v'Shalom was founded in 1998, celebrating its first worship service on April 18, 1998, about a year-and-a-half since beginning mission work in St. Louis. Then, in 2005, Bruce retired and LIJE called me to serve as its second Executive Director, and has moved its offices to St. Louis, MO, where it continues a variety of ministries under the structure of LIJE, such as The Apple of His Eye, Burning Bush Ministries, and Aish HaEmeth, our Center for Jewish-Christian studies.

Unfortunately, in 2008 our ministry and congregation in Queens, New York closed as the missionary there took a call to serve a traditional Lutheran congregation. But, we have opened new mission stations in St. Paul, Los Angeles, Atlanta and S. Florida, and continue to minister in Detroit, St. Louis and Orlando, and work with partner ministries to serve in the Ukraine and in Israel. We are actively working with congregations in the New York metro area to reopen our New York branch. **LIJE continues as a faith-ministry of the LC--MS, and as such relies on the regular support of those to whom God has called to sustain it with their gifts and prayers.**

*Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Matthew 9:35-38).*

--Rev. Kevin Parviz, Executive Director

Michael Brought Them

Filmstrip Guide

Michael Brought Them is an art filmstrip of 60 frames  
with an accompanying cassette tape recording.

This script is intended as a guide for the projectionist.  
It may also be used as a reading script.

ARTWORK: Jake Rosen, St. Louis

SCRIPT: David Born, Rego Park, New York

May 15, 1984

Produced by

The Task Force on Witnessing to the Jewish People  
The Board for Evangelism Services  
The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod  
1333 S. Kirkwood Road  
St. Louis, Missouri 63122-7295



## INTRODUCTION

Anti-semitic attitudes are transmitted to children through their parents and other adults, adults and children with whom children come in contact in their normal activities of life. This filmstrip demonstrates some of the ways that those attitudes are expressed and presents a way to deal with them with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The filmstrip is designed for children of grade school age, approximately 6 to 12 years, although children younger and a bit older will also appreciate the artwork and the message.

As the filmstrip is introduced, some Scripture that would be appropriate would be Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel: it is the power of God for salvation to every one who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." Or, Romans 10:1, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved."

More information on what Jewish people believe and how they practice their faith today is available from the Board for Evangelism Services at the address on the front page. Write for details.

The original concept of this filmstrip was presented in a filmstrip entitled, "Bill Brought Them" issued over twenty years ago jointly by the National Lutheran Council and the Zion Society for Israel. Both of these organizations no longer exist in the same form. The script was entirely rewritten and the artwork was replaced, but the basic concept of the story was retained. The name was changed from "Bill Brought Them" to "Michael Brought Them" so as not to confuse the two.

The author of the script, Rev. David Born, is pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Rego Park, New York and a member of the Task Force on Witnessing to Jewish People. The artist, Jake Rosen, is a St. Louis freelance artist, a Jewish Christian who loves and serves Jesus as his Messiah. Thanks to the other members of the Task Force for assisting in refining the manuscript and for their encouragement and prayers. They are Rev. John R. Perling, Jean Kieffer, Steve Cohen. Assistance in the production of the filmstrip was given by Jim Rice from the staff of the Board of Communication Services.

Erwin J. Kolb  
Executive Secretary  
The Board for Evangelism Services

## OPERATING SUGGESTIONS

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE PROJECTIONIST BE FAMILIAR WITH THE MATERIAL PRESENTED IN THE FILMSTRIP. THE FILMSTRIP AND CASSETTE TAPE SHOULD NEVER BE PRESENTED TO AN AUDIENCE UNLESS THE PERSON WHO IS OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT HAS REHEARSED THE PROGRAM.

To insure a proper presentation, the filmstrip projector and tape player should be placed in position and the filmstrip should be advanced to start. Make sure the filmstrip is properly framed so that the word "start" is in the center of the picture. Move the filmstrip forward to "focus" and focus projector. Then advance to the frame that says "Advance to next frame and start sound." Advance to next frame.

### WHEN YOU ARE READY TO SHOW THE FILMSTRIP TO THE AUDIENCE:

1. Start the sound.
2. When you hear the first "beep," advance the filmstrip to title and advance on each "beep" throughout presentation. (Automatic projector will do advancing for you when you use inaudible side of cassette.)
3. Follow narration on printed script to double-check the visual against the script.

## “Michael Brought Them”

### Visual

### Audio

1. Title

2. Michael is climbing in front of house.

NARRATOR: This is the story of Michael, a boy who lives in an area much like yours.

Michael is an ordinary kid. He likes ball games, junk food and being outdoors. And like most kids, he doesn't like homework very much or going to bed early.

3. Michael is sitting on a curb.

Unfortunately, there aren't many other kids near Michael in his neighborhood...No one he could really call his best friend. The house next door is empty. The people who lived there retired and moved to a warmer climate last month. Michael hopes that the new people who move in will have some kids his age.

4. Moving van unloading

One day, after school, Michael was happy to see a large moving van in front of the house next door. The new people had arrived. Would they have any children?

5. Woman at door pointing to movers with a sofa

Michael saw a woman giving directions to the movers. He wanted to go up and ask if she had any children but he was shy. Besides, she looked very busy and he didn't want to bother her. Suddenly, the woman noticed



Michael standing on the sidewalk and waved to him.

6. Woman talking to Michael on porch

MRS. GOODMAN: Hello. Do you live around here?

MICHAEL: Yes, I do. Right next door.

MRS. GOODMAN: That's wonderful. My son Danny is just about your age and I'm sure he'd love to meet you. What's your name?

MICHAEL: Michael.

MRS. GOODMAN: Well, Michael, I'm Mrs. Goodman. I'm glad to meet you.

MICHAEL: Thank you. It's nice to meet you too.

MRS. GOODMAN: Would you like to come and meet Danny?

MICHAEL: I sure would.

NARRATOR: Mrs. Goodman and Michael go inside to meet Danny.

7. A large empty room with Mrs. Goodman, Michael and Danny

MRS. GOODMAN: Danny, this is Michael. He lives right next door.

DANNY: Hi!

MICHAEL: Hello. Boy, am I glad you're here. There aren't many kids around here and I sure hoped the new family would have some children.

MRS. GOODMAN: Well, if you boys will excuse me, I have a lot of things to do.

NARRATOR: Danny and Michael go off to inspect the new house.

8. Michael and Danny in a room

DANNY: Do you have your own room Michael?

MICHAEL: Yes, It's really neat. You have to come over to see it.

DANNY: This is going to be my room. My Dad says we can put a desk by the window and build a bunkbed over there.

MICHAEL: A bunkbed! I've always wanted one of those!

DANNY: Hey! Do you like frisbee?

MICHAEL: Do I! Wanna play?

MRS. GOODMAN: Not in the house, boys.

DANNY: (laughs) I think we better go outside.

9. Michael and Danny playing frisbee

NARRATOR: Over the next few weeks, Michael and Danny became really good friends. It even turned out that when Danny registered for school, he was assigned to Michael's classroom.

10. Michael in Sunday School

Michael's family belonged to Messiah Lutheran Church. Michael enjoyed going to Sunday School there. He especially liked his teacher, Mr. Thompkins, who always made the lessons seem so real.

11. Michael dressed up, coming out of house

Easter was a very special day for Michael. His parents said that it was special...not

because of the candy and new clothes, but because the important thing was celebrating the resurrection of Christ. Michael was on his way to church on Easter when he met Danny outside his house.

12. Michael sees Danny on the sidewalk

DANNY: Hey, Michael. How come you're all dressed up?

MICHAEL: It's Easter. I'm going to church. What are you doing?

DANNY: Not too much. My Mom and Dad wanted to sleep late so I came to see if you wanted to play frisbee.

MICHAEL: What? Your parents are still asleep? Aren't you going to be late for church?

DANNY: We don't go to church.

MICHAEL: You don't? You're kidding. Don't you believe in God?

DANNY: Sure. But we're Jewish. Jewish people don't go to church.

MICHAEL: Oh. Well, listen Danny, I've got to go. See you later.

13. Michael in Sunday School. Mr. Thompkins is speaking.

NARRATOR: In Sunday School, Michael's teacher, Mr. Thompkins, told the story of how Jesus was condemned, crucified, died, was buried, and rose on the third day. Michael

liked to listen to Mr. Thompkins talk. He thought Mr. Thompkins was a good teacher because he brought in lots of examples to make everything seem so real.

MR. THOMPCKINS: And now, class, we'll read more about the trial of Jesus in the Gospel according to John, 19:7. And I quote, "The Jews have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God." End quote. Would anyone care to comment on this passage?

14. Michael is upset.

NARRATOR: Michael was confused and upset by what Mr. Thompkins had just read. According to the Bible, it seemed as though Jewish people were Jesus' enemies. They caused him to die. And he had just found out that Danny was Jewish. What was he going to do? Mr. Thompkins could see that he was upset.

15. Michael is in tears, Mr. Thompkins puts his hand on shoulder

MR. THOMPCKINS: What's wrong, Michael?

MICHAEL: Well, my best friend Danny is Jewish but you're saying that the Jews are bad. I mean, they wanted to kill Jesus and all.

MR. THOMPCKINS: Oh, no, Michael. It isn't like that. The Jews aren't bad. Jesus himself is Jewish but some of His own people wanted to kill Him because they followed some bad

leaders. These bad leaders were jealous of Jesus because many Jewish people liked him.

16. Michael walking out of church with his parents

NARRATOR: Michael was glad to hear that. Danny wasn't like the people who killed Jesus. Still, he didn't feel much better. He was confused and had so many questions. If Jewish people didn't hate Jesus, why didn't Danny go to church? Besides, he had heard some boy in school say that the Jews killed Christ so God put a curse on them.

17. Michael crying in between parents in car.

As he drove home with his parents and remembered what the boy at school had said about Jewish people, he began to feel bad about Danny all over again. Michael's father could see that he wasn't in a joyful Easter mood.

MICHAEL'S FATHER: Why so sad, son?

MICHAEL: Danny's Jewish and he has a curse on him.

MICHAEL'S FATHER: What? Where on earth did you get that idea?

MICHAEL: Bobby Grant said that the Jews have a curse on them because they killed Jesus and Danny's Jewish!

MICHAEL'S FATHER: Whoa. Let's just slow down a moment, son.

18. Michael with parents at door

NARRATOR: When they got home, Michael's parents explained Judaism to Michael as well as they could. They repeated what Mr. Thompkins said about it being everybody's sin that killed Jesus, not just Jewish sin. They explained how the Jews are God's chosen people, who have lived out God's plan of salvation in the world since the time of Abraham. Michael listened closely.

19. Michael listening to his parents

MICHAEL'S FATHER: You know, Michael, some of the leaders in the time of Jesus were jealous and stirred up the people to demand the crucifixion. But it was just a small number and it's not fair to blame a whole people for the evilness of a few.

MICHAEL: But what about the curse? Bobby Grant said that the Jews have a curse on them.

MICHAEL'S FATHER: Now, Michael, you've been going to Sunday School long enough to know that God does not put curses on people. God always wants to forgive even when people reject him.

NARRATOR: Michael was still not convinced.

MICHAEL: But why doesn't Danny celebrate Easter?

20. Mother speaking to Michael

MICHAEL'S MOTHER: Many Jewish people still believe that the Savior whom they call the

Messiah hasn't come yet. They don't believe that Jesus is the Savior.

MICHAEL: But without Jesus, they'll go to hell!

MICHAEL'S MOTHER: You must remember, Michael, that the Jews were God's first chosen people. God wants us to help them know that Jesus is the Messiah.

MICHAEL: But what about Bobby Grant?

MICHAEL'S MOTHER: Bobby Grant was repeating hateful things about the Jews which are not true. That is what we call prejudice.

MICHAEL: Prejudice?

MICHAEL'S MOTHER: Yes. Prejudice is like hating food you've never tasted.

## 21. Tomato

At one time, people didn't eat tomatoes because they thought they were poisonous. Someone even started a rumor that you could die from eating them. Of course, no one knew anyone who did die. They just talked about it.

## 22. Michael and Mother

MICHAEL: So you think what Bobby said about the Jews is prejudice?

MICHAEL'S MOTHER: I sure do. You know the Goodmans. You know they aren't evil people. Danny is your best friend.

NARRATOR: The next afternoon, Michael and Danny played ball after school together. Michael was relieved after his talk with his



parents yet things seemed different somehow.  
He was seeing Danny in a different light.

23. Michael and Danny playing

DANNY: So what did you do in church  
yesterday, Michael?

MICHAEL: I went to Sunday School and we  
had a lesson on how Jesus died and rose  
again.

DANNY: Oh.

MICHAEL: Danny, why don't Jewish people  
believe in Jesus?

DANNY: We're not supposed to. My mother  
says that Jewish people never believe in  
Jesus.

24. Michael and Danny talk

NARRATOR: Michael felt confused.

MICHAEL: But you said you believe in God  
so why don't you go to church?

DANNY: We go to synagogue.

MICHAEL: Is that like church?

DANNY: I guess so. We're supposed to go  
every week.

MICHAEL: Do you?

DANNY: Some people do. It depends on  
what kind of Jew you are. Our family only  
goes on the high holy days.

25. Michael and Danny

MICHAEL: The what?

DANNY: The high holy days. Jewish holidays like Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Passover and a few others.

MICHAEL: I've never heard any names like that.

DANNY: Well, they're Hebrew.

MICHAEL: That's neat. What are they like?

DANNY: Well, mostly it's saying prayers and reading the Torah. That's the sacred book. Sometimes, we eat special foods. On Rosh Hashanah, they blow the shofar.

MICHAEL: What's that?

DANNY: It's like a trumpet only it's made out of a ram's horn.

MICHAEL: I'd sure like to see that. It certainly sounds different than Sunday School.

26. Michael and Danny riding bikes

NARRATOR: Michael and Danny spent the summer together, riding bikes, playing ball, frisbee, and just talking. They talked for hours. About all kinds of things from the way they worshipped God to who they would have for homeroom next year. Michael wanted to know if he could see someone blow the shofar and as Danny had never been to church, they thought it might be interesting to visit each other's house of worship.

27. Danny and Mrs. Goodman in his kitchen

Danny asked his mother when the next high holy day would be when something special

would be happening at the synagogue. She said that Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, would be coming up in September.

DANNY: Do you think we could take Michael with us?

MRS. GOODMAN: Would he like to go to services?

DANNY: Oh yes. We talked about that. I'd like to see what church is like, too.

MRS. GOODMAN: I don't suppose there would be any harm in that.

28. Michael at supper table with family

NARRATOR: Michael told his parents that the Goodmans had invited him to the Rosh Hashanah services.

MICHAEL: What will it be like?

MICHAEL'S FATHER: I can't really say because I've never been to a synagogue service before. I'm sure it will be a very interesting experience.

29. Scene in synagogue with man and apples

NARRATOR: On Rosh Hashanah, when Michael arrived at the synagogue with the Goodmans, a man greeted them in the lobby. He had a table full of sliced apples and cups of honey to dip them in. He invited the boys to eat some as a symbol of the sweetness of starting the new year. Michael thought this was a very friendly and delicious way to begin a service.

30. Danny putting a yarmulka on Michael

In the synagogue, many of the men and boys wore little round caps called yarmulkes.

Michael wanted to know why they did this and asked Danny, who was putting one on.

DANNY: To remind us to be humble and that God is above us, covering us with his blessing.

MICHAEL: Can I wear one, too?

DANNY: Sure, here's an extra one for you.

31. Man blowing shofar

NARRATOR: The service began with the blowing of the shofar, the ancient call to worship that had been used for thousands of years. A man began to sing in Hebrew.

32. Cantor

MICHAEL: Who's that, Danny?

DANNY: That's the cantor. He chants most of the service.

NARRATOR: Michael couldn't understand the words they were singing in Hebrew but the cantor had such a beautiful voice that it didn't seem to matter.

33. Man reading

Then, a number of men from the congregation got up to read from a large scroll which Danny said was called a Torah. Michael thought that it was just like the lay readers did in his church service.

34. Michael walking down the street with the Goodmans.

When Michael got home, he had a lot of questions about the synagogue. He liked the feeling of the service but did not understand much of what it was all about. Why did Danny celebrate New Year's in September? And why did they blow the shofar and sing in Hebrew? His father didn't have all the answers but he thought that Pastor Meier might.

35. Michael with Pastor Meier

Next Sunday, after church, Michael waited until all the people had shaken the pastor's hand. Then he told him about attending the Rosh Hashanah service with Danny and that he had some questions. Pastor Meier said that he had some time to talk and invited Michael to sit down with him in the church office. He explained how the New Year was a solemn assembly that God commanded His people to observe every year, for all time.

36. Michael and Pastor in office

MICHAEL: Then how come we don't celebrate Rosh Hashanah in the church?

PASTOR MEIER: That's a good question, Michael. There really isn't any good reason why we couldn't since all of the Jewish holy days are spoken of in the Old Testament of our Bible. But of course, we don't have to since Jesus died on the cross.

MICHAEL: There are a lot of Jewish Holidays.

37. Pastor Meier

PASTOR MEIER: Yes, indeed there are and I'm glad you mentioned it because when Passover comes this spring, our congregation is planning to celebrate that holy day, just like the Jewish people have done for centuries. In fact, it's just like Jesus did it.

MICHAEL: Will we have a shofar and apples with honey?

PASTOR MEIER: No. That's Rosh Hashanah, a different holiday. Each holiday has its own customs and traditions. Passover is a meal with special foods. Each one has a meaning in the Exodus story.

38. Michael

NARRATOR: Michael was excited.

PASTOR MEIER: We'll have it in the church basement, and I think you'll find it much different from any other service you've attended. You see, by observing the Passover, we want our people to remember that Jesus freed us from sin just like God freed Israel from Egypt.

39. Michael and Pastor

At the same time, we will be saying to the many Jewish people in our neighborhood that our church appreciates our Jewish heritage. It might be nice if you invited your Jewish friend to our service. It's called a Seder.

MICHAEL: That's a great idea. Danny wants to see our church and it would be neat if I

could bring him to a special service like he took me to on Rosh Hashanah.

40. Michael with the Goodmans in the kitchen.

NARRATOR: The next day, Michael and Danny walked home from school together and Mrs. Goodman invited them in for a snack. The conversation turned to the events of the previous week.

MRS. GOODMAN: How did you like the Rosh Hashanah service, Michael?

MICHAEL: I liked it a lot. I didn't understand much of the service but the things we did were fun. I asked my pastor why we don't have services like that in our church and he said we would have something called a , um, well, he said it would have special foods to remember Moses or something like that.

41. Mrs. Goodman

MRS. GOODMAN: A Seder?

MICHAEL: Yes, that's what it was.

MRS. GOODMAN: Your church is having a Seder?

MICHAEL: Mmm hmm. Pastor Meier said that God told his people to keep the Passover and many churches believe that having a Seder is a way to do that. I thought that Danny would like to come just as you took me to the Rosh Hashanah service.



42. Mrs. Goodman and Michael's mother

NARRATOR: Mrs. Goodman was puzzled and later that week, stopped by Michael's house to chat with his Mom. Among other things, she wanted to find out about this Seder.

MRS. GOODMAN: By the way, Marianne, Michael says your church is going to hold a Seder. Is that true?

MICHAEL'S MOTHER: Yes, Eve. Our pastor wants us to be aware that Jesus worshipped as a Jewish person and kept the feasts which God commanded.

43. Mrs. Goodman and Michael's mother different pose

MRS. GOODMAN: But why would Christians want to observe Passover?

MICHAEL'S MOTHER: Well, at our church, we feel that the differences between Jews and Christians have been blown all out of proportion over thousands of years. The first church was composed of all Jewish people and they observed all the holidays until it became predominantly Gentile in later years. I believe that God spoke to the world through the Jewish people and that they are still a chosen people.

44. Mrs. Goodman and Michael's mother in the yard

MRS. GOODMAN: I still think it's remarkable that your church would hold a Seder.

MICHAEL'S MOTHER: If you'd feel comfortable, Eve, we would love to have you come as our guests.

MRS. GOODMAN: That's very nice of you, Marianne, and I appreciate the invitation but I feel very strongly about my beliefs and I don't want anyone to try and convert me.

MICHAEL'S MOTHER: Oh no, Eve. Conversion means to change what a person is. Why would we want to change you from being Jewish? You have a proud heritage, one which we admire. At the Seder, we'll be worshipping Jesus but nobody will expect you to participate in anything more than you wish.

#### 45. Marianne and Eve

NARRATOR: By the time Maundy Thursday came around, the Goodmans had agreed to attend this Seder to be held in Michael's church. At the Seder, Pastor Meier explained how each of the symbolic foods recalled the events of the Exodus. He chanted a few blessings which Michael thought sounded a lot like the cantor in the synagogue on Rosh Hashanah.

#### 46. Pastor w/Seder plate

Just before dinner, Pastor Meier taught the congregation a lively song called Dayenu. Danny felt proud that he knew this song which everyone else was trying to learn. After

dinner, Pastor Meier talked about the purpose of the sacrifice.

47. Pastor and Group at Seder

How the blood was a means of atonement for sin but the blood of lambs and goats was not a very personal sacrifice. He described the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and said that Jesus was the Lamb of God. His death and the shedding of His blood was not a ritual but a personal sacrifice for the sins of His people.

48. Pastor-Medium close up

PASTOR MEIER: Especially since the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 A.D., there haven't been any animal sacrifice in Israel. Atonement could only genuinely occur through the personal once and for all sacrifice of Jesus. We must therefore love Jesus who Himself said that the greatest love is seen in the giving up of one's life for another. The death of Jesus on our behalf demonstrates the utter depth of His love for us.

49. Children looking for matzoh

NARRATOR: Near the end of the service, the children had to look for the Afikomen--a piece of Matzoh, or unleavened bread, that was hidden. Pastor Meier had explained that the center piece of the three matzohs was traditionally hidden and then found and eaten as dessert.

PASTOR MEIER: You might say that the second piece of the three matzohs is really for the second person of the Trinity and its being hidden and found is like the death and resurrection of Jesus. For many, the Messiah is still hidden and it is our job to help them find Jesus. It is most probably an Afikomen like this which Jesus blessed and distributed as His body at the Last Supper Seder meal.

50. At the car

NARRATOR: Mrs. Goodman thought about the pastor's message on the way home and commented what a good cantor he was.

MRS. GOODMAN: You know, Marianne, he was as good as our rabbi. I don't go along with Jesus being the Messiah, but I couldn't help wondering how your pastor could talk as though Jesus was such a real person who loves him.

MICHAEL'S MOTHER: That's the way I know Jesus, too, Eve. I guess I don't understand everything about God but I do know Jesus. He died for me and forgives all my sins. So I have so much peace. I know He is with me always, even when everything seems to go wrong.

51. In the car

MRS. GOODMAN: You are very fortunate to have such a strong faith, Marianne.

MICHAEL'S MOTHER: Oh, I don't do so well on my own, Eve, but Jesus gives me strength when I need it. I said I wouldn't try to convert you but I would like you to know that Jesus gives real peace with God for everyone who asks for it.

MRS. GOODMAN: I can't do that. I can't pray to Jesus.

52. Getting out of the car

MICHAEL'S MOTHER: I know. That goes against everything you've been brought up to believe. But I believe it is real and available when you want it. Look, I don't want to push you, Eve. The point of this evening was that we were able to celebrate together a mighty liberating deed which God accomplished.

*(Editor's note: Unfortunately, while I have reproduced the script faithfully up to this point, the rest of the script seems to be lost to "antiquity." So the following is my ending. I can only hope that it is faithful to what Dave intended!)*

MRS. GOODMAN: Yes, it was nice to celebrate the Seder with you. And it certainly has given me a lot to think about. Thank you for inviting us.

53. Michael and his father

NARRATOR: That night, Michael was too excited to sleep. He was hoping that after the Seder, Danny believed in Jesus. He remembered his mother's words about the tomato, and prejudice, and how God wants us to help Jewish people know that Jesus is the Messiah.

MICHAEL: Today was fun, wasn't it Dad? I wish we could celebrate all the Jewish holidays at church!

MICHAEL'S FATHER: That would be fun. There would almost be a different holiday every month between the Jewish holidays and what we already celebrate. But, every one would give us a chance to worship Jesus. Wasn't it interesting how Pastor Meier told us how Jesus celebrated Passover?

MICHAEL: Yes, and Holy Communion makes more sense to me now after tonight. I didn't know that was about Passover. Jesus really is Jewish, isn't he? I hope Danny believes in Jesus now.

54. Michael and his father

MICHAEL'S FATHER: Well, don't get discouraged if he doesn't yet. Just be good friends with him, and keep looking for ways to tell him about Jesus. The Holy Spirit is calling Danny and his parents by the Gospel, and they sure heard that tonight. Now, all we can do is pray that they hear with their hearts, and

receive Jesus and His gift of forgiveness and salvation.

NARRATOR: That night, Michael and his father prayed for Danny and Mr. & Mrs. Goodman. Michael felt so much better about Danny, and he knew that somehow he was going to look for ways to keep telling his best friend that Jesus is the Messiah.