

# Spengy-Aubile the Lile

THE MIGHTY ANCIENT HERO CRUISE



THE MIGHTY ANCIENT HERO CRUISE

CHRISTY SEMSEN

ARRANGED BY

DANIEL SEMSEN

Approximate Performance Time; 35 minutes

### **COMPANION MATERIALS**

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CD Trax (Split) 0 80689 86012 6
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Edited by Paul Nelson and Sarah Huffman

Art Design by Funny Pages

Music Transcribed and Engraved by Brent Roberts

Title Design and Art Production by The Digital Easel



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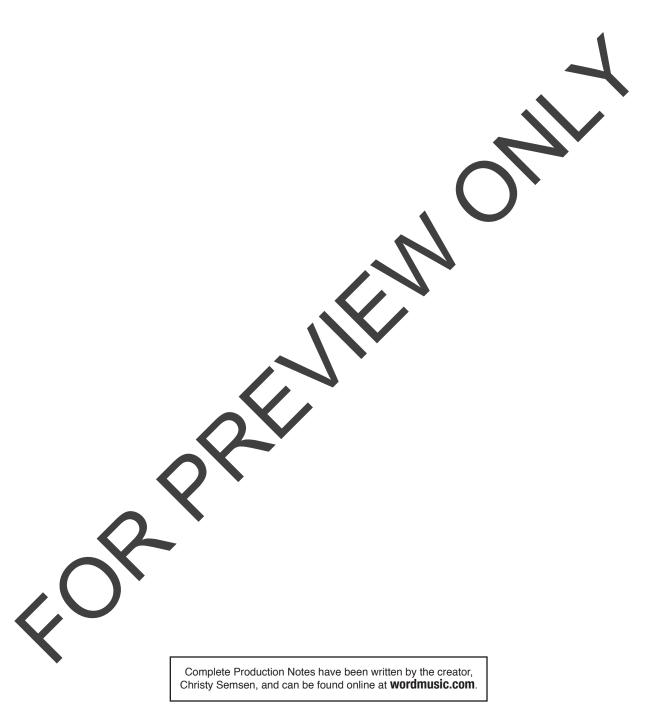
It was an honor to be given the privilege of writing my second children's musical for Word Music: "Spend Awhile on the Nile." As we travel along the Nile River on an entertainment cruise, we will see Mr. Cruise, his daughter Liza, and his performing troupe retell Bible stories that occurred long ago, with a twist: they get the Bible stories wrong. Watch and see what happens as the kids from Ocean View Church help Mr. Cruise and his crew understand the truth about God's enduring love and faithfulness to His people.

I hope you will take the time to talk with your choirs about what Mr. Couise thought the Bible Story was, and then talk about what the real Bible Story is, and what it shows us about God's love for His people. Hopefully, there will be a good chance for dialogue with our kids about these well-known Bible stories. I have also purposefully included a few Bible verses within the songs, to be memorized and recited by ALL the kids, with the belief that hiding God's word in these kids' hearts is one of the most valuable things we can do. Since music often makes that process easier, I am thrilled to utilize it. This will mean, however, that you will want to rehearse those verses many times during rehearsals in the months leading up to the show, so you aren't surprised in the dress rehearsal with a bunch oo kids who haven't learned it yet. © (I have found that can happen in my own choir, and am trying to fix that by adding motions to the verses, which definitely helps! Those will be included in the Teachers Resource Kit Motions DVD.)

I hope and pray that as you "spend awhile on the Nile" with us, your choir will come away with a deeper assurance of God's love for each of His children. As we look at different here stories, we will see that there is a thread of God's love and faithfulness for his people throughout the Old Testament. But these stories do not remain in the past-they remind us that just as God established a covenant with His people long ago, He also remembers his children today! As you sing these songs, perform the drama, and memorize the scriptures that are interspersed throughout the show, my prayer is that God's love will abound more and more in your lives.

#### - Christy Semsen

P.S. I always love to hear from you and hear the great stories of what God is doing in your choirs! Feel free to email me at csemsen@gmail.com.



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(music begins to "Spend Awhile on the Nile")

(During beginning intro, choir on risers are frozen in Egyptian poses, faces backwards in a silhouette. When music gets faster, begin Egyptian dancing.)

MR. CRUISE: Attention everyone! Nile Hero Cruises is now boarding. All

aboard for an adventure through the mysteries of historic Egyp

on the Nile River!

RUTHIE: I think this is it, guys! Let's get on the boat!

# Spend Awhile on the Nile



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IZA: (Ever the entertainer) We are so glad you have chosen Nile Hero Cruises—the most popular cruise on the exciting Nile River!

MR. CRUISE: (dramatically) Now, if you will all sit back in your seats, keep your arms and legs inside the boat, we are ready to cast off on the adventure of a lifetime! (all cheer)

















LIZA: We hope you are enjoying your Nile Cruise so far . . .

MR. CRUISE: (with bravado) The only Nile cruise where you can purchase

genuine, somewhat authentic Nile commemorative artifacts for a very reasonable price, while experiencing excellent

entertainment.

LIZA: Now, where are you folks from today?

GRACE: We're from Ocean View Church. We're on a mission trip.

MR. CRUISE: (grandly) A mission trip? Well, isn't that nice. (chees) and missing

the point) You look like you have a lot of mission!

RUTHIE: **Oh, well...uh...** 

LIZA: (rolling eyes, but still missing the point) They're on a trip with a

mission, Dad!

JOSHUA: Actually, we're taking a day to sightsee and we were hoping

to hear about (accessing his pamphlet) "The most wild and courageous heroes ever to live by the glorious and majestic Nile River." (as he reads, Mr. Cruise mouths the words along with him;

he wrote them

MR. CRUISE: Well, have YOU come to the right place! You will be entertained,

dazzled, and mystified by the stories we will tell you on the Nile. You will have three options for the entertainment portion of the

cruise. Liza?

LIZA: That's right! You may choose between:

ACTOR (Performance announcer voice) Crazy Animal Heroes of the Nile,

ACTOR 3 (Joining Actor 1 in pose) Nile Lifestyles of the Rich

ACTOR 2: (joining in) and Famous!

LIZA: Or . . . (posing) Ancient Heroes of the Nile. (big Broadway freeze)

JOSHUA: (excited) We'll take Ancient Heroes of the Nile, please!

MR. CRUISE: An excellent choice! You have chosen the entertainment option

that is in my favorite genre: (choking up with happiness) Show

**Tunes!** 

KIDS: *(enthusiastically)* **Ooooh!** 

(music begins to "The Joseph Story")

MR. CRUISE: Let's begin the entertainment portion of our cruise. Now sit

back, get comfortable, and enjoy "The Story of Joseph."

JOSHUA: Oh, I think I know this story!

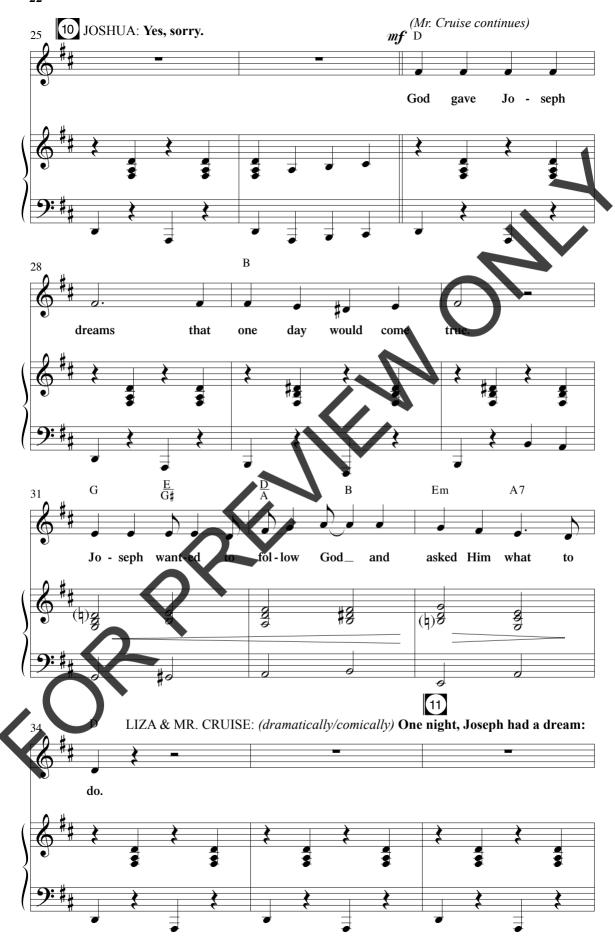
## The Story of Joseph





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IOSHUA: Excuse me! I'm pretty sure Joseph in the Bible had brothers.

MR. CRUISE: (comically condescending) Oh, I'm PRETTY sure it was sisters.

LIZA: *(reassuring him)* **Absolutely!** 

JOSHUA: I don't THINK so ...

RUTHIE: It's right here in Genesis. Chapter 37, verse 5: "Joseph had

a dream, and when he told it to his BROTHERS, they hated him!"

MR. CRUISE: (exasperated sigh) Oh, all right—you're the customer! (yelling to cast) Sisters are now brothers! Fix it, people! (girls scramble and put on fake beards) Let's try it again.

LIZA and (dramatically/comically) One night, Joseph had a dream: MR. CRUISE: JOSHUA: "Excuse me! I'm pretty . . . " mp

























JOSHUA: Wait! Vhat? That's not how the story ends!

MR. CRUISE: Now, young man, I think I know how the hero story ends . . .

RUTHIE: He's right! What about the rest of the story? The brothers aren't the heroes!

BROTHERS: (brothers look shocked) Gasp!

CRACE: Do you mind if we take it from here? Come here, Joseph, brothers. (Whispering instructions as little kid puts on a Pharaoh headdress) Here's what happens...

MR. CRUISE: **Oh, sure. Now** everyone's a performer...

(music begins to "The Joseph Story [Part II]")

## The Story of Joseph (Part II)



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RUTHIE: There was going to be a great famine, and Egypt would need to save lots and lots of food. Then Pharaoh said to Joseph...

LITTLE KID: (in Pharaoh headdress and Pharaoh voice) "Since God has made all this known to you, I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt."











GRACE: But wait! The Egyptian looked familiar. Could it be?

RUTHIE: (music resumes at m. 78) Once the brothers realized that the Egyptian was actually their brother, Joseph, they were terrified! But Joseph said...















OSHUA: (in playoff music) Joseph said to his brothers,

JOSEPH: "Do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. It was not you who sent me here, but God." (music ends)

MR. CRUISE: (clearing throat) Uh, very nice. I guess that works, too. So...I guess I could not interest you in some "Hero Sisters of Joseph" key chains or posters? No? Okay. (Changing the subject) Liza,

## why don't you introduce the next act?

LIZA: With pleasure! Our next hero was raised in Egypt in the house of the Pharaoh, so he obviously was raised to be a hero from birth. We present, (with a flourish) the story of Moses! (She backs away dramatically while Sisters take positions as "the bush" with pompons. During song, Mr. Cruise can alternately "direct" the singing,

then snap to the beat, very pleased with his show.)



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(Sisters bring out and shake pom-poms in front of themselves to create a burning bush)

MOSES: (m. 39) Wow! A talking bush? Have you ever thought about going

into showbiz? Let's go! Bush and Moses walk offstage to side of

boat)

MR. CRUISE: (clapping) Wonderful story, Liza, Moses, Bush! (Bush, Liza and

Moses join hands and bow with a flourish) (music stops at m. 43.)

What a team Moses and that bush turned out to be!

GRACE: Liza: (whispering) Uhm, that's not what happened.

LIZA: Sure it is Right? Right? (realizing her Dad taught her the wrong

ending) Dad!

MR. CROISE. Well, honey, I did change the story a bit. But it's more exciting this way: Moses and the bush take a world tour performing...

(Mr. Cruise does some comic Broadway move) show tunes!

(music resumes at m. 44)

**IOSHUA:** Again with the show tunes? Uh, that never happened.

MR. CRUISE: I suppose you would like to tell us YOUR version . . .

RUTHIE: Well, here's what the *Bible* says: (Bush and Moses scramble back to

position and Ruthie whispers in Moses' ear during next choir part)











RUTHIE: Moses was actually really scared of what God was asking him to do. He didn't want to go tell Pharaoh to let God's people go, but God reminded him of something really important! (lighting change, as kids are now singing the Words of God)









MR. CRUISE: (hiding a poster of Moses and the bush on tour) Just let me put

something away . . .

GRACE: Is that a poster of Moses and a bush, wearing top hats?

MR. CRUISE: Never mind that. You are all turning out to be a very difficult

audience.

RUTHIE: But we're having a great time! Do you have another hero

story?

MR. CRUISE: (pouting) I don't want to tell you.

KIDS: (convincing) Please, come on! Tell us another

MR. CRUISE: Well, will you promise to let me tell the WHOLE story? Without

interrupting?

RUTHIE: We promise! We won't say a word.

MR. CRUISE: (snapping for Actor 3 to ome to front as Pharaoh, Ensemble girls

form blues band around him, presenting to play bass and guitar) Places, everyone! I present, The Story of Pharaoh and the

Plagues . . .

(music begins to Poor, Poor Pharaoh"\*)

PHARAOH: This is a song dedicated to my slaves, the Israelites. They've been

with me for a long time, and I . . . well, no matter how much they

get on my nerves, I just can't let 'em go.

<sup>\*(</sup>During song, Mr. Cruise may take turns comically pantomiming playing instruments with the sisters—he loves the blues.)

## Poor, Poor Pharaoh

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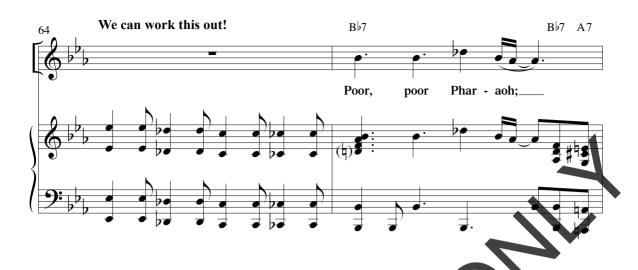








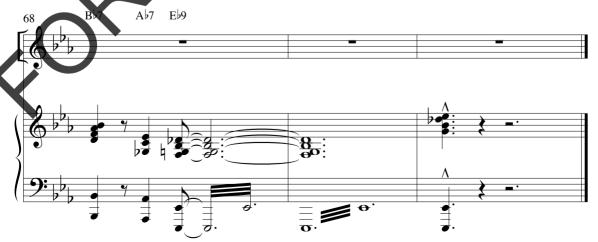




### PHARAOH: I'll miss you! Promise me you'll



#### at least write! (to audience) It's been a very bad day.



MR. CRUISE: (dramatically) And . . . Scene! Well? ( 43 soundtrack crickets

chirping while kids stare at him awkwardly) (Confidently) Tell me

you didn't like the Pharaoh hero story.

RUTHIE: (not wanting to hurt his feelings) Well...it was very entertaining

. . .

GRACE: (hesitantly) But, you know, the Bible says that Pharaoh's hear

was hardened and no matter what God did, Pharaoh refused to

let God's people go.

MR. CRUISE: That's what I said! (his crew agrees.)

(That's what he said. That's what I heard! etc.)

JOSHUA: Pharaoh wasn't a hero; he was a bad guy! He and his army

chased the Israelites and tried to kill them!

MR. CRUISE: (comically emotional) Now that's it! You all have been a very

poor audience and I need some time to center (some acting funny phrase, pouting) I'm docking this boat, and leaving. (He steers

over to the dock, collects his things and walks out)

LIZA: Wait, Dad, don't leave! You're the only one that can drive the

boat!

MR. CRUISE: (as he is leaving) Well, maybe you will appreciate me more when

I am gone The show is cancelled!

(Kids react. Oh no! Please don't leave! That's too bad, etc.)

LIZA: (freeking out; talking to herself) Must stay in control! The show must go on! The show must go on! (pause) Awh, who am I

kidding? We've been trying to stay in business for so long, but without our hero stories, I'm afraid we won't have any customers.

It's over.

**GRACE**: Well, we could tell *you* some stories. And they're true!

MZA: (skeptical) Are they hero stories?

GRACE: Well, really, in all the stories, God is actually the hero, but He

uses ordinary people like you and me.

JOSHUA: Remember Moses? Well, he was chosen to demonstrate God's

mighty power to the Pharaoh, and to God's people, by leading

them out of Egypt.

RUTHIE: And God used Joseph to save His people from a great famine!

LIZA: We already told those stories.

RUTHIE: That's right, but did you know that hundreds of years before

that, God made a promise to someone else named Abraham?

God said,

KID A: "I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous

(music begins to "I Will Bless You") as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore . . . and through your offspring, all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

Genesis 22:17-18

(During song, optional addition of little ones/preschool, kindergarten or 1st graders wearing sparkly star costumes and dancing)

## I Will Bless You

Words and Music by CHRISTY SEMSEN Arranged by Daniel Semsen



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KID B:

(m. 49) "This is My covenant with you: you will be the father of many nations . . . I will make you very fruitful . . . and kings will come from you." Genesis 17: verses 4 and 6.

KID C:

"I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you... to be your God and the God of your descendants ... I will be their God." Genesis 17: 7 and 8.







LIZA: This may be obvious, but, God's people were Pharaoh's slaves in

Egypt, right?

GRACE/JOSHUA,

RUTHIE: Right!

LIZA: Well, that doesn't seem like God was blessing them and showing

people He was their God.

GRACE: Well, that's what the people thought for a while, too!

JOSHUA: Even though God made a covenant with the Israelites through

Abraham, the people forgot about it when things got difficult.

RUTHIE: And when Moses told them God wanted to rescue them from

Pharaoh, they didn't believe him, because they thought God had

forgotten.

JOSHUA: But once God delivered them from Egypt by walking them

through the Red Sea, they had a huge party! And we mean a HUGE party! Miriam, Moses sister, led the people in a song of

praise to God that must have been heard for miles.

ALL: (with energy) Exodus 15:1 and 2, "I will sing to the Lord, for He is

highly exalted . . . The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. He is my God and I will praise Him." (all

cheer)

(music begins to "Who is Like the Lord")

## Who Is Like the Lord

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JOSHUA: (As Mr. Cruise walks in resolutely) Look! It's Mr. Cruise!

MR. CRUISE: (hanging his head) Hello, loyal passengers, audience. I owe you

an apology. I have been a shameful captain, and worse—an unprofessional student of the theater. There are no small parts,

only small actors.

RUTHIE: No worries! We forgive you!

MR. CRUISE: You do?

ALL: (agreeing) Sure. Yeah. Totally.

LIZA: (excitedly) Dad, the kids have been teaching me some new hero

stories, and they're true!

MR. CRUISE: (shaking his head) Liza, I learned these stories when I was little,

too. But at some time you have to grow up and stop believing in

fairy tales.

RUTHIE: But these aren't just stories, Mr. Cruise!

MR. CRUISE: Well, even if they aid happen, those stories don't have any

relevance today

GRACE: Sure they of Throughout the Bible, there is a thread of God's

love and faithfulness to His people, even when they ran away

from Him

RUTHIE: ... or didn't understand what was going on.

JOSHUA: Even when they forgot the great things God had just done for

them.

MR. CRAISE: What does that have to do with us?

(music begins to "You Never Let Go")

MOSHUA: We may not be Israelites, but we *are* God's people.

MR. CRUISE: What do you mean?

RUTHIE: When God sent Jesus down to earth so many years ago, He gave

us the chance to really become His children.

LIZA: I'm not sure I understand.

#### GRACE: Maybe we can talk more about it.

(Mr. Cruise, Grace and Liza go sit on side of stage. During song, they bow and pray)



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ALL KIDS:

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea. Psalm 46:1 and 2.

(During verse, Mr. Cruise has been walking to center)











MR. CRUISE: Liza, crew, we will have to update our hero stories! (everyone

cheers)

LIZA: We'll get right on it. God's love for His people is more exciting than any made-up stories!

(music begins to "Spend Awhile on the Nile-Reprise")

RUTHE: And God will never give up on His children!

CRUISE: Now, ladies and gentlemen, if you will all sit back in your seats, keep your arms and legs inside the boat, we are ready to cast off and finish our "Mighty Ancient Heroes of the Nile" cruise. Now, Liza, these new stories—can they be performed as show tunes?

# Spend Awhile on the Nile (Reprise)

Words and Music by CHRISTY SEMSEN Arranged by Daniel Semsen



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# **Curtain Calls**



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# **PRODUCTION NOTES**

# "WHO'S WHO?"

### THE CHARACTERS:

There are 8 lead characters, and additional smaller parts that can be added. At minimum, you could do a cast of 6 speaking parts, and at the most there would be 8 leads, plus 46 bit parts, solos and 2-6 sisters.

Mr. Cruise (adult) Liza Cruise (girl) Grace (girl) Joshua (boy) Ruthie (girl) Director of Nile Hero Cruises; loves show tunes Mr. Cruise's dramatic daughter; overdramatic Christian older girl taking the cruise Excited boy taking the cruise Younger girl who, along with Joshua and Grace,

also provides the voice of reason.

### **Entertainment Crew**

These actors are part of the entertainment on the cruise, led by Mr. Cruise and Liza. For a smaller cast, you can combine the roles Actor 1 and 2, having a boy play both Joseph and Moses. It also is a great idea to have a girl play Actor 3 (1) you have fewer boys), since she can easily play Pharaoh with a headdress, and the solo is in a girl range as well.

Plays "Moses"; raps

Actor 1 (boy)
Actor 2 (boy)
Actor 3 (boy or girl)

Plays "Pharaoh" (with a headdress); sings

Plays "Joseph", sings solos within 2 songs

Ensemble (*non speaking*) (2-5 girls)

Comic crew who need to have a lot of fun; Play Joseph's sisters (later putting on beards and mustaches to change into "brothers", the burning bush, and Pharaoh's Blues band

Bit Parts \*

Cute, tiny kid with one line within a song
Kid B

Cute, tiny kid with one line within a song
Cute, tiny kid with one line within a song
Cute, tiny kid with one line within a song

\* These bit parts can easily be divided up between the lead characters, Grace, Joshua, and Ruthie. However, it can be nice to allow your little ones to have a chance to shine.

## THE SOLOS:

Spend a While on the Nile

- Solo 1, 2, 3, 4 (these are one phrase solos that I gave to kids who were less experienced, but still able to have a special part. All four solos can be combined into one, larger solo.)
- Girl Solo

### The Story of Joseph

- Actor 1 (Joseph Solo)
- Sisters Group

### The Story of Joseph (Part II)

- Solo
- Actor 1 (Joseph)

### I AM the LORD

- Liza solo
- Moses rap

### Poor, Poor Pharaoh

Pharaoh Solo

During this song, the "Sisters" become Pharaoh's back-up band, playing blues instruments. In our show we chose to pantomime playing instruments using oars, life preservers and boating items. You can also use blow-up or cardboard instruments. It is hysterical to have Mr. Cruise come play an air guitar solo alongside the band.

### I Will Bless You

• Little Kid Solo 1 & 2 (These two solos are only four words- give them to your youngest kids!) During this song you can have your viny kids come out dressed as "stars" and

### You Never Let Go

dance.

- Solo 1
- Solo 2
- Mr. Cruise
- Liza

## THE **COSTUMES**:

#### Choir:

You can choose to outfit the choir in "Spend a While on the Nile T-shirts" and khaki shorts, or in adventure cruise clothes. Have sunglasses pre-placed on the side of the stage or in their pockets for "Poor, Poor Pharaoh."

### Grace, Ruthie, Joshua:

Khaki shorts with a white polo shirt. Accessorize with binoculars, cameras etc. Also could choose to wear a shirt with your church logo, since they are on a mission trip.

#### **Entertainment Crew:**

You can have a lot of fun with this crew, which includes Mr. Cruise, Liza, Actors 1-3 and the ensemble (sisters). At the most basic, you can outfit Mr. Cruise and Liza in cruise

apparel, and the actors and crew in all black, adding accessories when they become different characters. For our performance, however, we chose to have these actors change clothes for each scene, and make it really funny and over the top. You will notice there is a color theme for each scene, which you can add into the lighting. Just have fun with it! Below are the suggested costume changes for each song:

"Spend a While on the Nile": (Red, white, blue, khaki)

**Mr.** Cruise: White pants, button-down white shirt and navy blue captains blazer. Captains hat.

**Liza:** Nautical theme- white leggings and white tank top, navy/white/striped pullove glitzy dress, maybe a perky white/navy sailor hat. Flat shoe. Little girl glam.

### **Actors and Ensemble (Sisters):**

Girls- Black capris or black leggings and black top with short sleeves.

Boys- Black shorts (Dickies), black shirt, black shoe, no-show black sock. Optional sticker with logo of "Nile Hero Cruises" on their pocket.

"The Story of Joseph (Multicolored)

Mr. Cruise: Multicolored top hat that matches Joseph's coat Actor 1 (Joseph): Glittery coat of many colors show tunes style

Liza: Wrap around skirt made of sante multi-colored fabric; feather boa

### **Actors and Ensemble:**

Boys: Ties in multi-colored fabric

Sisters: Headband fancy black British style hats for girls, then when they become

brothers they put on beards

"The Story of Joseph (Part II)"

Little Kid: Pharaoh ha

Joseph: Pharaon hat after little kid gives it to him

"I Am the Lord"
(Red)

Liza. Red feather boa or red glittery hat and long red gloves

Actor 2 (Moses): long grey beard, red sweatband on his head, carrying a stuffed lamb

Actors and Ensemble:

Boys: Red bow ties

Girls: Red, Silver and gold glittery pom-poms

"Poor, Poor Pharaoh" (Black, glitter, blues)

Actor 3 (Pharaoh): Pharaoh hat, or blues hat

**Mr. Cruise**: Bluesy hat **Liza:** Black, glittery boa

**Choir**: Sunglasses **Actors**: Sunglasses

Ensemble: Becoming the band- colored blues blazers, sunglasses and boat items (oars,

etc. as instruments)

"I Will Bless You"
(Gold)

#### Stars:

Gold star costumes, or gold poster board around their neck

"Who is Like the Lord!
(Yellow)

### **Ensemble:**

Gold and yellow tambourines with ribbons- each could have written on them one word: Awesome, exalted, strength, song, and salvation

You Never Let Go"
(Purple)

**Ensemble:** During verse, hold up signs with purple writing saying: "Refuge,"" Strength,"" Ever present? "Help" on one side, and on the back they say "You," "Never", "Let," "Go.

### THE PROPS

- Brochure for "Nile Hero Cruises"
- Pocker Bible
  - Key chains "for sale"
- Benches
  - Trunk with Entertainment Crew's costumes and props
- Captain's chair
- Boat navigation wheel (we thought it was funny to have Mr. Cruise hold it, but then be able to carry it around with him.)
- Poster of Moses and a Bush wearing top hats
- Red, gold, silver sparkly pom-poms
- Lamb stuffed animal for Moses
- Instruments for Blues song: two oars, a life preserver, or any other boat item to pantomime

- Harmonica for Pharaoh
- Sunglasses
- Gold and yellow tambourines with ribbons- each could have written on them one word: Awesome, exalted, strength, song, salvation
- Signs with purple writing saying: "Refuge," Strength," Ever present," "Help" on one side, and on the back they say "You," "Never", "Let," "Go."

## THE SET:

One of the most important decisions in the performance of Spend A While on the Nile, I have found, is deciding how to set up the stage. There are three options:

- Depending on your stage size, you might choose to make the enthe stage the boat," so that everyone, including your choir, is on the boat cruise. This might work if you have a small, somewhat narrow stage with a loft. You could build the front of the boat on the edge of the front of the stage, and give the illusion that the whole stage is the boat.
- You might divide the stage in half, and put risers with your choir on one side of the stage, and your boat, with Mr. Cruise, Liza, the erew, and Grace, Ruthie and Joshua on the other side. All solos can happen on the choir side, and drama and specific solos on the boat side.
- If you have a larger stage, you can choose to put your "boat" in the middle of the stage, and divide choir risers on either side of the stage for your choir. We have chosen to do this option for our demonstration DVD performance. This has required us to make the cruse boat wide enough that we can move around, as well as have some levels to highlight the performances of the individual characters. Included at the end of the Teachers Resource Kit are diagrams of where you can stage the kids on the boat for each song so that they can still sing, and not be in the way of the featured performer. We chose to create our cruise boat with three staging levels: a "deck" (the ground level), steps (a riser that can be used to dance and sing on, or to simply get to the "stage," and the "stage," the raised performance area on the second floor of the boat. The deck contains the benches that he tourist kids will sit on, and much of the dialogue can happen there. The stage is where the entertainment crew and soloists perform their songs, and also includes the area where Mr. Cruise and his steering wheel hang out.





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