

A script from



“Jesus Go!”

by
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- What** Almost overnight *Pokémon GO* has become the most popular app of all time. But could it be that Jesus came up with the idea first? This is a great intro for a message or group discussion on living and sharing our faith (the two *are* connected)! **Themes:** Comedy, Ensemble, Evangelism, Testimony, Faith Sharing, Prayer, Spiritual Growth, Outreach
- Who** Mike- 40+ warm, witty middle-aged or older Christian (may be played by a woman)
- Janiece- teenager, smart, snarky girl with an unrealized yearning for God (may be played by a boy)
- Noah- 10-13 Janiece’s wildly enthusiastic younger brother (may be played by a girl)
- When** Present
- Wear** Each actor should be dressed casually
(Props) 3 Cell phones
Leaf pile
Rake
- Why** Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 6:40; 1 John 2:6
- How** Look for ways to “cheat” the characters out (i.e. turn your body) so that your audience/congregation can see them, e.g. turning out to gesture toward something they’re describing.
- Time** Approximately 5 minutes.

Mike is raking fallen leaves. **Janiece** and **Noah** rush on, led by their phones. **Janiece** stops in front of **Mike** as his rake hits her sneakers.

Janiece: You're standing in front of Charmander!

Mike: *(To the empty space behind him)* Sorry, Charmander. I didn't see you there. *(To Janiece, smiling)* Still don't.

Noah: Hey, Mister...um...

Mike: Duarte. Hey, Noah.

Noah: *(Shouting enthusiastically)* We're playing Pokémon GO!

Mike: So how do you play it?

Janiece: *(Gesturing toward his house)* You have to have a modern phone. Not one of those—

Mike: Telly phones? But then you probably mean the kind without tails. *(He pulls a digital phone out of his back pocket)*

Noah: Great! Now you just gotta download the app.

Mike: Got it. What are the rules?

Noah: Gotta catch 'em all! Pokemon means 'pocket monster' and there's like 150 of 'em. Maybe more!

Janiece: You don't really want to hear this, do you?

Mike: I do.

Janiece: Well, first you have to go.

Mike: Go and look for 'em. Got it.

Janiece: Right, go. But then you have to *capture* them, and *train* them.

Mike: Hah! I've been doing that for years!

Janiece: What? No, this is new.

Mike: No, it's pretty old, actually.

Noah: How old?

Mike: About 2,000 years.

Noah: You're not that old...are you?

Mike: Me? Oh, no, I'm only a few hundred. But the version I play is. It was invented by Jesus. You've probably heard of him.

Janiece rolls her eyes.

Noah: Yeah. In church!

Mike: Well, sure, but he's not just there. That's the whole point of my version, *Jesus GO*. You try and see him everywhere.

Noah: Hey, Miss Karen said that last week!

Janiece: That's our Kids Church lady.

Noah: But I didn't know it was a game! *(He scans his phone)* How do I get the app?

Mike: Don't need a phone. He downloads his Spirit right into you. *(Taps his heart.)*

Janiece: That's totally different!

Mike: Actually, Jesus' rules are pretty much the same. First, he said to go into all the world...

Noah: Go!

Mike: Right. And tell people about him, making Jesus followers out of them.

Noah: Capture!

Mike: Yep. He captured me. Changed me forever!

Janiece: *(To herself)* I doubt it.

Noah: You? You're a Pokemon?

Mike: Well, Pokemin, actually, Pocket Minister.

Janiece: You're a pastor? Like at a church?

Mike: Nah, but wherever I go I try and show folks how to be like him. Jesus told us to make *disciples* out of people—that means train 'em to be

Pokemins! Only to do that you need to not just see Jesus everywhere, you need to *be* Jesus everywhere. That's the advanced version.

Noah: Whoa! How do you do that?

Janiece: Only Jesus can be Jesus!

Mike: Exactly! That's why he downloaded his Spirit into me. So people can see *him in me*.

Janiece: Wait. This is more than just a game.

Mike: Uh-huh.

Noah: Are there updates?

Mike: Oh, yeah, every day.

Noah: So, are you like him?

Mike: Working on it.

Noah signals for **Mike** to bend down, then stares intently into his face. After a moment he steps back.

Noah: Yep! I see him!

Janiece: (To **Noah**) Seriously? (To **Mike**) Well, all that's cool, I guess, but there's other stuff in Pokémon GO that your version doesn't have.

Mike: Like?

Janiece: Like *Pokeballs*.

Mike: Bible verses! (He points to his head.) I download 'em here all the time. Next to letting people see Jesus in me, there's nothing better for capturing Pokeyhearts.

Janiece: Hmm. Well, what about *Potion*? That's the medicine that restores Pokémon.

Mike: Prayer! Wouldn't be caught dead without it!

Janiece: *Incense*? That lures wild Pokémon to you.

Mike: God's love. It's what captured me!

Janiece: *(Softening)* That's actually kind of... *(Snapping out of it)* What about Gyms? Those are the places where you do battle.

Mike: Work. School. Supermarket. Family reunions. Wherever people are is a spiritual gym.

Janiece: No kidding.

Mike: Big challenges—even for advanced Pokemins!

Noah: *(Running off stage as he speaks)* I'm gonna see how many I can collect!

Janiece watches him go, but remains.

Mike accidentally drops his phone into the leaf pile while **Janiece** is looking the other way. Gets down on his knees to look for it.

Janiece turns around and sees only **Mike's** rake. Standing. By itself.

Janiece: Holy...!

The rake falls over and, as her eyes follow it down, she sees **Mike** on the ground.

Mike: Dropped my no-tail phone.

Janiece gets down on her knees, spots **Mike's** phone and hands it to him.

Janiece: *(Hesitantly)* So what if I wanted more than just a game? What if I wanted to learn the, you know, advanced version?

Mike: Well, actually, on your knees is the perfect place to start.