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## **"Learn-A-Lympics"**

By  
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**What** In this Olympics themed comedy, an adult goes head to head with some students in a series of fun challenges and everyone ends up learning some memorable lessons from the Bible for the upcoming school year. This play can be an interactive experience with audience children in the audience joining the events. Perfect for a back to school service, family night, or Fall Sunday School kickoff.

Themes: Back to School, Brave, Memories, Fall, Teaching, Student

**Who** Kelsay/Kellan: adult; leads Learn-A-Lympics  
Dave/Dana: adult; thumb wrestling lover who is ready to compete  
Elementary Student: child age 6-11; limited lines  
Teenager: teen age 13-18; limited lines  
Teacher: adult; limited lines

**When** Modern Day

**Costumes** Dave wears workout clothes, head and wristbands. Others in Modern attire.

**Props** "Learn-A-Lympics" banner, Podium blocks with three different levels (optional), Duffle Bag, 4 Medals, Clipboard, Baguette, 2 Hula Hoops

**Why** Ephesians 6:10, Deuteronomy 31:6, Philippians 4:13

**How** This skit should be fun and silly. The actors playing Dave should really play up the physicality and allow the actor playing Kelsay to hit home the more meaningful moments. Feel free to change the names of the characters to your actors' names for a more personal feel. You can also make this an interactive skit or event by inviting the children in the audience to participate in each of the "events."

**Time** Approximately 10 minutes

Center stage is a brightly colored banner that says "Learn-A-Lympics." Underneath the banner or nearby is an optional tri-level podium. **Dave** enters, carrying a duffle bag and a flyer. He looks down at the flyer and up at the banner.

**Dave:** This must be the place.

**Dave** sets the duffle bag down, puts the flyer on top and begins doing a series of over the top stretches and warmups.

**Dave:** Just gotta loosen up the old joints a little and then I'll be all set. *(counts while he does an exercise)* One... two... three...

**Kelsay** enters, carrying a clipboard. **Dave** sees her and immediately picks up the pace on whatever warm up he's doing, trying to impress her. He also dramatically increases the number of reps. **Kelsay** looks around, making sure things are ready, but stops when she sees **Dave**.

**Dave:** Nine hundred and forty-four... nine hundred and forty-five... nine hundred and forty-seven...

**Kelsay:** *(with a smirk)* That's quite a workout you've got going there, Dave.

**Dave:** *(boastfully)* Oh, that? That was nothing. That's a light day for me.

**Kelsay:** Is that so?

**Dave:** Yeah. What you saw was really just a warmup.

**Kelsay:** Well don't let me stop your... *warmup*. I think you were on nine-hundred and forty seven?

**Dave:** *(nervously)* Oh, yeah, right. I guess I'll get back to it, then. *(takes a deep breath and resumes warmup, but he's hurting a little now, so it's slower)* Nine-hundred and forty-eight... nine-hundred and forty-nine... *(stops)* You know what, that's probably good for today. I wouldn't want to overdo it.

**Kelsay:** *(with a chuckle)* Nope. Wouldn't want to do that.

**Kelsay** returns to her work. **Dave** follows.

**Dave:** No siree. I wouldn't want to pull a hammie before the competition starts.

**Kelsay:** *(stop and turns)* The competition?

**Dave:** Yeah. You know.... *(points to the sign)* the Olympics.

**Kelsay:** The Olympics were three weeks ago\*. You do realize we are not in Paris\*, right... that we are not, in fact, at the Olympics? *(\*substitute most recent location of Olympics and the amount of time that makes sense)*

**Dave:** Of course I know these aren't the *actual* Olympics. *(crosses to duffle bag, grabs the flyer and a baguette out of his bag)* But I got this flyer and I thought, hey, I'm in pretty good shape. I could probably throw a javelin or two. *(mimes throwing the baguette like a javelin)*

**Kelsay:** That is a baguette, not a javelin.

**Dave:** Oh, right. That's my lunch. *(puts the baguette back in the duffle bag)* In any case I'm ready to compete. *(looks around)* Where do we start?

**Kelsay:** The thing is, Dave, this is not an athletic competition like the Olympics. This is the Learn-A-Lympics.

**Dave:** *(still excited)* I don't know what that is, but I'm totally in!

**Kelsay:** The Learn-A-Lympics are a fun way to get kids ready to go back to school. Are you going back to school, Dave?

**Dave:** *(disappointed)* No. *(perks up)* But I totally would if I could. Recess is awesome!

**Kelsay:** *(chuckles)* Yes, recess is awesome. And so is learning and growing and making new friends. But it can also be a little scary and intimidating which is why I've created the Learn-A-Lympics to get everyone in Back to School shape.

**Dave:** *(disappointed)* Oh, I see. That's great. *(looks sadly at his duffle bag)*

**Kelsay:** Where are you going?

**Dave:** Since I'm not going back to school I guess I should just take my duffle bag and head home. *(picks up bag and starts to cross to exit)*

**Kelsay:** Hey Dave?

**Dave:** *(stops, hopefully)* Yes?

**Kelsay:** Do you want to stick around and try out the events?

**Dave:** *(drops the bag and turns, excitedly)* Yes! Yes I do.

**Kelsay:** Just so you know the Learn-A-Lympics are a series of competitions that will test your strength in many ways.

**Dave:** Strength, you say? *(does humorous bodybuilding poses)* Pretty sure I've got that covered.

**Kelsay:** *(chuckles and shakes her head)* And you'll be going head to head with some pretty fierce competition.

**Dave:** Don't worry about me. This is child's play! Bring it on! *(rubs his hands together in anticipation)*

**Kelsay:** If you say so...

**Dave:** I hope these competitors are ready for *(brings up one fist at a time as he says the name)* David and Goliath!

**Kelsay:** Then let's bring out our challenger(s) for the first event!

**Dave:** Let's do this! *(does some stretches, jumps, etc)*

*If using as an interactive experience, now is the time to invite children to participate. If not an interactive experience, then only **Elementary Student** enters and crosses to stand next to **Dave**. **Kelsay** stands across from them with the clipboard. **Dave** stops when he sees the student.*

**Dave:** Um, Kelsay?

**Kelsay:** Yes?

**Dave:** That's a kid.

**Kelsay:** I'm aware.

**Dave:** I'm competing against a six year old? *(or another age that is not the age of **Elementary Student**)*

**Elementary:** *(speaks actual age).*

**Dave:** Is this even fair?

**Kelsay:** Oh, don't worry... *(crosses to **Elementary Student** and pats their shoulder or puts her arm around them)* I'm sure *(insert name)* will take it easy on you.

**Elementary Student** *smiles and nods.*

**Kelsay:** *(looks down at clipboard)* Alright, let the games begin!

**Dave:** Wait!

**Kelsay:** *(annoyed)* What is it now?

**Dave:** Don't we need some sort of torch lighting or something?

**Kelsay:** I think we're fine.

**Dave:** I have just the thing!

*Dave crosses either to the long acolyte candle lighter and lights a candle or perhaps takes out a small lighter and holds it up.*

**Dave:** Let the games begin!

*Dave puts away lighter and crosses to stand in place next to Elementary Student.*

**Kelsay:** *(looking down at clipboard)* Alright. Our first event will require strong listening skills, extreme concentration, mental acuity, feats of endurance and the ability to multi-task.

**Dave:** What is it? The Steeplechase? Rhythmic Gymnastics? Thumb wrestling?

**Kelsay:** Thumb wrestling?

**Dave:** It's a sport...kind of.

**Kelsay:** I think you'll like this event too. *(smiles)* It's Simon Says.

**Dave:** *(shocked)* Simon Says?

**Kelsay:** That's right. In this event, I will act as Simon, giving commands in two different ways. If I start a command by saying, Simon Says, then you must follow that command. But I do not start the command by saying Simon Says, then you are to ignore the command.

**Dave:** *(annoyed)* Yes, yes, we all know how to play the game. Let's get on with it.

**Kelsay:** Remember, you must listen closely and concentrate, because if you don't you'll be eliminated. Do both competitors understand the directions?

**Dave & Elem:** Yes.

**Kelsay:** Great. Then competitors, take your marks!

**Dave and Elementary Student** line up next to one another and face the audience. **Kelsay** stands off to the side, ready to lead the event.

**Kelsay:** *(drawn out, dramatically)* Simon says... stand on one foot!

**Dave and Elementary Student** stand on one foot.

**Kelsay:** Good. Simon says stand on two feet.

**Dave and Elementary Student** stand on two feet.

**Kelsay:** Nice. Simon says pat your head.

**Dave and Elementary Student** pat their heads.

**Kelsay:** Great. Now rub your tummy.

**Elementary Student** does not do it. **Dave** attempts.

**Dave:** Aha! I've got you now!

**Kelsay:** Oh, Dave?

**Dave:** *(as he continues)* Yes?

**Kelsay:** *(with a smirk)* I didn't say Simon Says.

**Dave:** *(stops)* Darn it!

**Kelsay:** *(holds up Elementary Student's hand)* We have our winner!

If using podiums, **Kelsay** indicates that **Elementary Student** should stand on one of the tiers. She puts a medal around **Elementary Student's** neck and hands them a card on which is a Bible verse.

**Elementary:** *(reading card)* Philippians four, thirteen. I am able to do all things through the one that strengthens me.

**Kelsay:** That's right!

**Dave:** That wasn't fair! Do you know how long it's been since I've played Simon Says? I was out of practice. I wasn't ready!

**Kelsay:** That's the way a lot of kids feel when it's time to go back to school. They worry that the next school year is going to be hard... that they won't remember everything they learned the year before... that they won't be ready. But God knows that these kids are strong enough to tackle any challenges that come their way. And when things get hard, God will be right there, beside them, to give them the mental strength they need to do their very best.

**Dave:** Strong minds? *(thinks)* Yeah, that would be handy for kids going back to school.

**Kelsay:** And that's not all, as we'll see in our next event!

**Dave:** Ooh, I wonder what it's going to be!

**Kelsay:** This next event will require coordination, dexterity, agility and balance.

**Dave:** What is it? Taekwondo? Synchronized swimming? Thumb wrestling?

**Kelsay:** Thumb wrestling again?

**Dave:** It's really fun!

**Kelsay:** Once again, it's not thumb wrestling, but it is a lot of fun.

**Secondary Student** enters carrying two hula hoops and crosses to **Kelsay**.

**Dave:** Oh no.

**Kelsay:** Oh yes! You're going to Hula Hoop! In this event, the winner will be the first person to keep the hula hoop spinning for a total of ten seconds.\*

*\*Feel free to change the winning conditions to whatever you'd like... it could be the first to hit a certain number of revolutions, or you can increase the amount of time to twenty or thirty seconds to allow for more comedy from **Dave**. You could also allow the spinning to occur around an arm or leg instead of their waist. If so, remove the next stage direction and a couple of lines.*

**Dave** grabs a hula hoop and starts spinning it on his arm.

**Dave:** This is a piece of cake! (after about ten seconds) Done. (holds out his hand) My medal, please.

**Kelsay:** Sorry, Dave. It's ten seconds of hula hooping around your waist.

**Secondary Student** puts the hula hoop around their waist.

**Dave:** But—

**Kelsay:** On your marks...

**Dave:** Wait a minute!

**Kelsay:** Get set...



**Dave:** I'm not ready! *(quickly steps into the hula hoop)*

**Kelsay:** Go!

**Dave** and **Secondary Student** begin to hula hoop. **Dave** is not very good at it, which provides some hilarious moments. The hoop falls, he nearly trips, he tries to spin it around his neck or leg, etc. Eventually, **Secondary Student** wins.

**Kelsay:** *(holds up Secondary Student's hand)* And we have our winner!

**Dave:** *(stops)* Darn it!

If using podiums, **Kelsay** indicates that **Secondary Student** should stand on one of the tiers. She puts a medal around **Secondary Student's** neck and hands them a card on which is a Bible verse.

**Secondary:** *(reading card)* Ephesians six, ten. Be strengthened in the Lord and in the strength of his power.

**Kelsay:** Very true.

**Dave:** That wasn't fair! Do you know how long it's been since I've hula hooped?

**Kelsay:** By the looks of your performance out there, I'd say... never?

**Dave:** *(indicating Secondary Student)* Did you see her *(or him)*? She's smaller and quicker and more flexible than me. I could never compare to her!

**Kelsay:** I think a lot of kids feel like that when they go back to school... they look around and compare themselves to others and sometimes they feel like they come up short. But God made people of all shapes and sizes. He gave each of us unique abilities... some of us can sing and dance, some can play musical instruments or construct tall towers, and others are natural athletes. But no matter what we look like, or what we're good at, we all live in the bodies that God gave us, and it's our job to keep them healthy and strong.

**Dave:** Strong bodies? *(thinks)* Yeah, that's pretty important for kids going back to school.

**Kelsay:** It sure is.

**Dave:** So strong minds and strong bodies... I guess we've learned what kids need when they're going back to school. *(sighs and starts to cross to his duffle bag)* I guess that means the Learn-A-Lympics are over... and I didn't even get a medal.

**Kelsay:** Actually, we have one more event.

**Dave:** *(stops)* We do?

**Kelsay:** Yep.

**Dave:** *(excitedly turns)* Don't tell me it's... *(rushes over to Kelsay)*

**Kelsay:** *(quickly)* Dave, no—

**Dave:** Thumb wrestling! *(holds up his thumb)*

**Kelsay:** It's not thumb wrestling.

**Dave:** *(crushed)* But it's the only sport I'm good at.

**Kelsay:** I'm not sure thumb wrestling is a sport, but I'm pretty sure you're going to be good at this next event.

**Dave:** *(doubtful)* If you say so.

**Teacher** enters and crosses to **Kelsay**.

**Dave:** Yes! Finally a competitor closer to my age. *(turns to Students)* Sorry, kids, but you are just too good!

**Kelsay:** For this last event, we'll be joined by a teacher. Remember, kids aren't the only ones getting ready to go back to school right now.

**Dave:** You know, I never thought of teachers having to go back to school. *(sheepishly)* I kind of always assumed they just lived at school year round.

**Kelsay:** Our last event doesn't require much at all... just an open heart, ready to share and receive the blessings God has in store for us.

**Dave:** *(thinks)* Okay, you got me on this one. It's not a water polo or trampoline... *(sighs)* and I know it's not thumb wrestling.

**Kelsay:** No, it's not.

**Dave:** Then what is it?

**Kelsay:** It's prayer.

**Dave:** Prayer?

**Kelsay:** Yes. As our teachers and students get ready to head back to school they will face many challenges, both mental and physical. They'll face worry and doubt and sometimes it will feel like it's a heavy burden to carry. And in those moment they will need strength of spirit... they will need to hold fast in knowing not only *who* they are, but *whose* they are...that they are a child of God and that no matter what happens, God is there, watching over them and ready to listen, if they just take a moment to stop and pray.

**Dave:** A strong spirit... *(thinks)* That might be the most important thing kids and teachers need when going back to school.

**Kelsay:** *(smiles)* I couldn't agree more.

**Dave:** So for this next event we just need to pray?

**Kelsay:** That's right.

**Dave:** How do we get started?

**Kelsay:** Like this.

**Kelsay, Teacher, and Students** fold their hands in prayer. Perhaps they kneel. **Dave** follows.

**Kelsay:** *(to Dave)* And now, just tell God what's in your heart.

**Dave:** *(praying)* Dear God, thank you for always being there for us every day, whether it's the first day of school or the hundredth day. Thank you for giving us strong minds to learn new things and gain understanding. Thank you for giving us strong bodies that are unique and chosen just for us so that we can learn and grow into the people you want us to be. And most of all, thank you for our strong spirits, so that no matter what challenges lie ahead we know we can face them and that you will be right there, by our side. Amen.

**Kelsay:** *(smiles)* I think we have our winner.

**Dave:** *(shocked)* Is it me? Did I win?

**Kelsay:** Actually... *(looks around)* I'd say we all did.

*If using podiums, **Kelsay** indicates that **Teacher** should stand on one of the tiers. She puts a medal around **Teacher's** neck and hands them a card on which is a Bible verse.*

**Teacher:** *(reading)* Deuteronomy thirty-one, six. Be strong and courageous! Do not fear or tremble before them, for the Lord your God is the one who is going with you. He will not fail or abandon you.

**Kelsay:** And He never will. *(turns to **Dave**)* So what did you think of the Learn-A-Lympics?

**Dave:** I thought they were great. I learned a lot today.

**Kelsay:** I'm glad to hear it.

**Dave:** I just have one last question.

**Kelsay:** *(sighs)* I'm sorry, Dave, but we are not going to thumb wrestle!

**Dave:** That's not it. I swear!

**Kelsay:** Then what is it?

**Dave:** *(smiles)* Where can I get one of those medals?

***Kelsay** smiles and puts a medal around **Dave's** neck. He admires it as lights fade to black.  
End of skit.*