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“The Moses Illusion”

by
Tracy Wells

- What** This play is a hilarious look at how people confuse characters in the Bible, notably Moses and Noah, and can be performed live or filmed and presented. Themes: Small Group, Bible Study, Noah, Moses
- Who** Moses
Noah
Counselor
Offstage Announcer
- When** Present
- Costumes and Props** Notepad
Writing utensil
Staff
Small stuffed animal
Moses and Noah should wear traditional biblical attire and should have long beards. Counselor wears modern day attire.
- Why** Timothy 3:16-17
- How** This skit is set in a family counselor’s office. Center stage is a desk, behind which is a chair. In front of the desk are two chairs. Alternately, you could use an armchair facing a small sofa or loveseat. At start of scene, Counselor is seated behind desk or in armchair. He has a notepad and a writing utensil. Moses and Noah are seated in the two chairs or on the sofa.
- Time** Approximately 3 minutes

At start of scene, Counselor is seated behind desk or in armchair. He has a notepad and a writing utensil. Moses and Noah are seated in the two chairs or on the sofa.

Counselor: So, what brings you in today?

Moses: We're having a bit of a...problem with one another.

Noah: I really don't see what the big deal is.

Moses: He would say that.

Counselor: *(makes a note)* I see. *(looks up)* And I take it the two of you are brothers?

Noah: *(excitedly)* From another mother! *(puts his hand up to Moses as if wanting a high five)* Up top, bro!

Moses looks at him with scorn.

Noah: *(lowering his hand, sadly)* Denied.

Counselor: So, not brothers then? You do know this is family counseling, right?

Moses: I guess you could say we both come from the family of God.

Noah: Plus, our names kind of sound alike and we both have beards.

Moses: Hence our problem.

Counselor: Which is?

Noah: People mix us up all the time. They call me Moses just as much as he gets called Noah.

Moses: Doubt it.

Noah: Honestly, Doc, I'm flattered. Moses is a really cool guy.

Counselor: I'm not a doctor, Noah, I'm a licensed family counselor, but it's good to hear you saying nice things about Moses.

Moses: Of course, he's flattered. Why wouldn't he be? So, he built a big boat. Big whoop. God chose me to prepare the Ten Commandments.

Noah: Uh, it was a little more than a big boat, thank you very much. It only saved humanity as we know it. Plus...I mean... *(pets the animal he holds)* all those cute little animals.

Moses: Snakes. Did he really need to save the snakes?

Noah: Not to mention it took me 120 years to build it! *(incredulously)* 120 years, people!

Moses: And spiders? I feel like we could've done without those.

Noah: Do you know how much wood and tar I had to use to build that sucker? And it didn't even leak! *(thinks)* Well, except that one time...on my wife's head...while we were sleeping. *(shrugs)* But she said she didn't mind.

Counselor: *(holding up a hand to stop the bickering)* Alright, I think I understand what's going on here.

Noah: So do I. *(crosses his arms and smiles triumphantly)* Moses is jealous of my ark.

Moses: Not a chance! I'm just saying...is it so hard to remember that Noah built the ark and Moses had the Ten Commandments.

Counselor: You know there's a name for that. It's called the Moses Illusion.

Moses: *(nodding)* Nice.

Noah: Why is it called the Moses Illusion and not the Noah Illusion? Is it because people like Moses better? Because if so, let me remind you... *(pets the animal he holds)* all those cute little animals.

Moses: So, what is this Moses Illusion?

Counselor: It's a phenomenon where listeners or readers fail to recognize an inaccuracy or inconsistency in a text.

Noah: Which means...

Counselor: People mix your names up.

Moses: I could've told you that.

Noah: I still don't understand why it can't be called the Noah Illusion. I mean... *(looks up, thinking, entranced)* it's got that magical sound to it... *(spreads both hands apart in front of him as if performing a magic trip)* illusion! And what's more magical than building a giant ark with your own two hands?

Moses: I don't know...maybe parting the Red Sea or turning your staff into a serpent?

Noah: You know there's a name for that too...it's called bragging.

Moses: So, is there any cure for this Moses Illusion?

Counselor: There's no documented treatment, but perhaps reading a Bible would help.

Noah: That's good advice, doc.

Counselor: I've already told you, Noah I'm not a doctor. I'm a family counselor.

Noah: *(talking to his animal)* And he's the best doctor in the entire world.

Announcer: *(offstage; *if using for small group Bible study promotion)* Don't be a victim of the Moses/Noah mix-up. Join a small group Bible study now and never make that mistake again.

Moses: *(shakes his head)* Can't people mix me up with Abraham? Or Jonah? That big fish isn't looking so bad right now.

Lights fade to black. End of scene.

**Alternate line if using to promote individual study of the Bible*

Announcer: Don't be a victim of the Moses/Noah mix-up. Open the Bible to hear the word of God and never make that mistake again.