



# THE BORN AGAIN IDENTITY

Created by Rob Howard • David Guthrie

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*Running Time: 38:00*

*(The stage is the set of spy headquarters. It has a retro spy feel to it. A large map of Jerusalem is framed stage right. Stage left there is an easel with a large pad of paper. There is a desk toward the back with a globe on it, full of stacks of paper and folders. A science table with interesting looking beakers with colored water, and a retro looking switchboard are toward the back. Near the science table is a bird cage or perch with a few fake parrots. At the front stage left, a scribe sits at a desk with papers and a pen. Older Dee enters and approaches the desk.)*

*(music begins to “Spies Like Us”)*

**SCRIBE: Good morning, Dee. Or should I call you, Agent Dee?**

**OLDER DEE: Oh, Dee is fine. Thank you.**

**SCRIBE: Everyone loves a good spy novel. This is exciting!**

**OLDER DEE: Writing my memoirs is not something I ever thought I'd do. Where do I begin?**

**SCRIBE: Tell me what it was like to be a spy in Jerusalem, and I'll start getting it down on paper.**

**SONG: “SPIES LIKE US”**

*(The stage comes to life as agents busy around Headquarters during the song.)*

## **verse 1**

No one's ever seen us, but you know you need us  
No one's ever heard us, well maybe once  
Another informant, saying what's important  
We do what we do for everyone

## **chorus 1**

Spies like us, we're adventurous  
When it's treacherous, we're courageous



When complications arise we'll improvise  
We're masters of disguise  
Spies like us, spies like us

**verse 2**

Undercover agents, secret information  
Clandestine operations, it's really fun  
Good versus evil, working for the people  
We won't have a sequel, we're never done

**chorus 2**

Spies like us, we're adventurous  
When it's treacherous, we're courageous  
We're especially trained for whatever we face  
Every mystery we'll explain  
Spies like us, spies like us

*(agents freeze during dialog at measure 69)*

**SCRIBE:** **Let's talk about one of your *biggest* cases, Dee.**

*(Scribe writes as Older Dee talks.)*

**OLDER DEE:** **Alright. Well ... the Jerusalem Intelligence Service Three, or JI3 as those of us in the business know it, had closed many cases in my tenure. But there was *one* we could never quite wrap up. Jerusalem, 4 B.C. It was Passover and the city was crowded. *(thinking aloud)* No, the city was *bustling* ... teeming with crowds. The rumor of a Messiah was creating quite a commotion. And at JI3 ... we knew this city, and the *world* was counting on us!**

*(song finishes)*

**bridge**

Whatever's right and true, we'll find it  
Whatever's worthy to do, we'll try it  
As all things work together for good  
We'll work together for you

**chorus tag**

No secret's ever too small, we'll uncover them all  
Before the curtain calls  
Spies like us, spies like us, spies like us



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## SCENE 1

*(Headquarters is busy—papers, people, conversations. Gadget is working at the science table. Numbers is at the light board. Chief is at the desk. Others are milling around in conversation.)*

JANE: **Line up for morning roll call!**

*(everyone hurries to their spot)*

CHIEF: *(Jane hands Chief her clipboard)* **Thank you, Jane. Let's see ... Gadget?**

GADGET: *(salutes and the suitcase he's carrying opens and spills random items—a hammer, twine, duct tape, a roll of toilet paper)* **Present, Chief.**

CHIEF: **I see you've come prepared, Gadget, at ease.** *(Gadget picks up the items and puts them back in the suitcase.)* **Numbers?**

NUMBERS: **Reporting for duty, Chief ... precisely three minutes and sixteen seconds *before* roll call.**

CHIEF: **As expected. Knox and Bree?**

KNOX & BREE: **Yo, Chief!**

CHIEF: **And ... Secret Agent Dee?** *(looking around)* **Agent Dee?**

DEE: *(walking in)* **Sorry, Chief. I should've expected the delays. The traffic this week! Some joker's camel ran out of water in the middle of downtown. Dromedaries were backed up to Herod's Gate!**

CHIEF: **As a fourth generation agent, Dee, I would think promptness would be in your blood.** *(hands the clipboard back to Jane)*

DEE: **Won't happen again, Chief.**

CHIEF: **"On time and on our guard at *all* times." We can't have a repeat of JI1 or JI2.**



- DEE: **That's for sure! I don't want to see JI3 caught unaware like JI1. I can't imagine the cost of exterminating *all* those locusts.**
- GADGET: **Yeah, at that point they just packed up Headquarters and hit the road for a better land.**
- DEE: **Then years later, the tragedy in Jericho with JI2!**
- NUMBERS: **It took them exactly 40 days and 40 nights to find Headquarters and by that time, *(pause, shaking her head)* there was nothing left.**
- (A beat of silence as everyone bows their head with their hand over their heart.)*
- CHIEF: *(picking up the energy)* **Well, not on our watch! "We live with vigilance and diligence." Jane, do we have today's reports?**
- JANE: **Got 'em right here, Chief. *(hands clipboard to Chief)* Nothing looks out of the ordinary.**
- CHIEF: *(flipping through the report)* **Maybe, maybe not ... do you all remember the case we opened a few years ago with Nicodemus and a man named Jesus?**
- ALL: *(ad lib. "yeah," "yeah, I do," etc.)*
- DEE: *(overlapping)* **I do, Chief. I spent a lot of time on that top secret case ... *(mysteriously)* "The Mysterious Encounter."**
- GADGET: **Our intel picked up their conversation in the dark of night. I don't recall all the details.**
- DEE: **We put a trail on Nicodemus for three months. Eventually it went cold and we marked him as ... just a normal guy ... a Pharisee who kept his nose clean.**
- CHIEF: **Well apparently, this Jesus is back here in a *big* way. There was quite an uproar when He entered Jerusalem. Any intel from that scene?**
- NUMBERS: **Sketch was in the area and he captured some images.**
- CHIEF: **Bring him in. Let's see what he's got.**



*(Sketch enters and quickly “sketches” on a large pad of paper. When he finishes, it’s just a jumble of scribbles.)*

CHIEF: *(as he’s sketching, watching)* **Yeah ... yeah ... okay. *(when he’s finished)* What in the world?! It’s just scribble-scrabble! Is this some kind of code?**

NUMBERS: **We don’t want our intel to fall into the wrong hands, Chief.**

KNOX: **Well, tell us what we’re looking at.**

NUMBERS: *(pointing out parts of the drawing)* **So here we have Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey. And here, there are crowds of people cheering and throwing palm branches in front of Him.**

BREE: **Sounds like quite an incident!**

NUMBERS: **Indeed. Thank you, Sketch. *(Sketch exists)***

DEE: **Anytime that many people gather for one thing there’s probably more than one thing going on.**

JANE: **Are you thinking what I’m thinking, Chief?**

CHIEF: **I’m thinking we need to reopen the case of “The Mysterious Encounter!”**

*(Jane nods in agreement)*

GADGET: **I’ve got something that might help, Chief. *(pulls out a long string)***

KNOX: **Who are you tying up with that flimsy string?**

GADGET: **Ah, but wait ... *(pulls out two rams horns)* ... attach these two rams horns to each end and, *(puts one up to each ear)* voilà, you can hear a conversation up to 40 cubits away! It’s my latest high-tech listening device.**

ALL: *(ad lib. “Oooo’s and Ahhh’s,” “Impressive,” etc.)*

BREE: **Gadget, you’ve done it again!**

CHIEF: **Good work, Gadget. Dee, I want you back on this case. Let’s start with some simple surveillance.**



DEE: **On it, Chief.** (*Dee grabs the string and horns from Gadget and exits.*)

CHIEF: **The rest of you, on to your day's assignments!**

*(music begins to "Just Another Day")*

*(All get to work as the song begins.)*

### SONG 2: "JUST ANOTHER DAY"

#### **chorus 1**

Just another day in the spy business  
Another day in the undercover trade  
In just a minute we'll be digging up details  
Another minute we'll have lost our way  
We never turn down a promising lead  
When we interrogate we turn up the heat  
We'll turn over anything that's in our way to save the day  
It's just another day

*(dialog at measure 27)*

JANE: (*Jane and Numbers walk over to Chief*) **Chief, Numbers has a report for you.**

CHIEF: **Yes? Go ahead, Numbers.**

NUMBERS: **I've been calculating *all* the formulas and I think I've invented something significant!** (*proudly*) **Here, read this ...**

CHIEF: **This is just a page full of numbers, Numbers! Is this more of your code?**

NUMBERS: **Yes, *and* ... read the bottom of the paper.**

CHIEF: (*reading*) **"This paper will self-destruct in 3 - 2 - 1 ..."**

*(Numbers grabs the paper, wads it up, and tosses it over her shoulder.)*

CHIEF: **What? I see the wadded up paper behind you!**

NUMBERS: **Okay, there's still some work to do.**



CHIEF: **Numbers, if you really can make a self-destructing code, I'm in. Keep at it!**

ALL: *(ad lib. cheers)*

**chorus 2**

Just another day in the spy business  
Another day in the undercover trade  
In just a minute we'll be wrapping up this case  
Another minute we're led astray  
We'll take hold of the challenges  
We'll take our lumps on the obstacles  
We'll take on the trouble when it comes our way to save the day  
It's just another day

*(dialog at measure 74)*

JANE: *(Jane and Gadget walk over to Chief. Numbers holds a fake parrot perched on her finger.)* **Chief, are you ready for another report?**

CHIEF: **You bet. Let's hear it, Gadget.**

GADGET: **I've been working feverishly, Chief, to develop a flock of *highly* trained parrots to be our "ears in the sky"!**

JANE: **Do birds have ears?**

GADGET: *(secretively)* **You wouldn't think so by looking at 'em, but they do. *Undercover* ears.**

CHIEF: **Well, what does it do?**

NUMBERS: *(voicing the parrot)* **Squawk, "Why does Chief always smell like cheese?!" Squawk.**

*(Chief smells her shirt.)*

GADGET: **Uh ... obviously there are some kinks to work out!**

CHIEF: ***Obviously!* (upbeat) But I'll give this project the green light!**

ALL: *(ad lib. cheers)*

*(song finishes)*



**bridge**

Today's the day, our God has set before us  
We'll give it all we've got  
We don't go alone, our God goes before us  
He'll lead the way  
No matter what we face

**chorus tag**

We'll decode what's hard to understand  
We'll determine the wisest path  
We'll solve every situation in our way without delay, to save the day  
It's just another day

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**SCENE 2**

*(At Headquarters people are busy at work as Dee enters and sets down the string and the horns.)*

JANE: **Hey, Dee. Did you hear anything on the “storn-o-scope”?**

DEE: **The what?**

JANE: **The “storn-o-scope.” String, horns, “storn-o-scope” ... that's the name Gadget gave it. Chief said if it's working in the field it needs a name.**

DEE: **I'm not sure about the name, but it sure is working!**

JANE: **Everybody, Dee's back with a report!**

*(Everyone stops what they're doing and gathers around Dee.)*

ALL: *(ad lib. “what'd you hear?” “hear anything?” etc.)*

CHIEF: *(interrupting loudly)* **Quiet down, quiet now!**

DEE: *(whispering, almost inaudibly)* **You won't believe it, but ...**

CHIEF: *(interrupting)* **Not you, Dee. We're a hundred feet underground in this cave. I was quieting the rest of the crew.**



- DEE: *(regular voice)* **Oh, sorry! Yeah! So I was on my stakeout ... *(moving over to the giant map)* right here, hiding in some bushes, when I heard an interesting conversation over here. *(pointing)***
- NUMBERS: **By my calculations that's clearly 16 cubits and three spans away.**
- GADGET: **Did you use the "storn-o-scope"?**
- DEE: **I did! And I could easily hear what was going on. It seems that Jesus was talking to a group of people about whether or not they believed Him.**
- CHIEF: **Jane, make sure you're capturing all this.**
- JANE: **Yes, Chief. *(She takes notes on her clipboard during the conversation.)***
- DEE: **One of the things He said was, *(looking at her notes)* "For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."**
- NUMBERS: **Wait a minute! Did He say "eternal life"?**
- DEE: **Yes.**
- NUMBERS: **That's what He was talking to Nicodemus about several years ago, right?**
- CHIEF: **Numbers, excellent work! That's exactly right ... "eternal life" *and (thinking)* being "born again."**
- ALL: *(ad lib. agreement, "yeah," "I remember that," etc.)*
- CHIEF: **Jane, do you have the case file from before? Can you read us Jesus' exact words from that night with Nicodemus?**
- JANE: **Right here, Chief. *(reading)* Jesus said, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."**



NUMBERS: **Fascinating!**

DEE: **And then later He said, “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”**

GADGET: **Intriguing!**

KNOX: **Want me to go get these guys and bring 'em in for interrogation?**

CHIEF: **No, no, Knox. “We practice the *art* of espionage, we don't block and tackle it!” But I believe we've got to reopen this case!**

BREE: **What are we going to do, Chief?**

CHIEF: **Alright, listen, we've got to crack the code to “born again” and “eternal life.” If Jesus really has the secret to “eternal life,” we *have* to find out what it is and protect it. We *can't* let it fall into the wrong hands! *That's* our mission!**

ALL: *(ad lib. “that's right,” “that's what we do,” etc.)*

CHIEF: **Agent Dee, I want you back in the field gathering all the evidence you can find.**

DEE: **Yes, Chief.**

CHIEF: **Knox and Bree, go with Dee. I want you to find someone who's had an encounter with Jesus or His group of followers. We need to find out more about Him.**

KNOX & BREE: **On it, Chief.**

CHIEF: **Gadget, I want you working on decoding what Jesus meant by “eternal life.” Numbers, I want you to calculate how someone could be “born again.” And Jane, would you read again what Jesus said about “born again”?**

*(Gadget and Numbers nod their agreement. People get to work. Dee, Knox, and Bree exit.)*

*(music begins to “Born Again”)*



JANE: *(looking at her notes)* **“Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”**

SONG: “BORN AGAIN”

**verse 1**

Nicodemus, you must be, you must be born again  
No one can see the kingdom of God unless they're born again  
Nicodemus, you must be, you must be forgiven of sin  
There's grace for the humble, grace to redeem, grace for you and me

**chorus**

Born again, born again  
Our lives transformed within  
No matter what good we do on the outside  
The change we need is within  
Born again, born again  
By God's Spirit we're born again  
Whoa, whoa, whoa we must be born again

**verse 2**

Nicodemus, just like you, we must be born again  
We just can't see the kingdom of God unless we're born again  
Nicodemus, just like you, we must be forgiven of sin  
So God sent a Savior to make a way for all who will believe

**chorus**

Born again, born again  
Our lives transformed within  
No matter what good we do on the outside  
The change we need is within  
Born again, born again  
By God's Spirit we're born again  
Whoa, whoa, whoa we must be born again

**scripture readers**

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!” 2 Corinthians 5:17  
“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” 1 Peter 1:3

**bridge**

There's hope for the hopeless, love and forgiveness  
All authority in Jesus, sent to redeem us, we can be free



**chorus**

Born again, born again  
Our lives transformed within  
No matter what good we do on the outside  
The change we need is within  
Born again, born again  
By God's Spirit we're born again  
Whoa, whoa, whoa we must be born again  
Whoa, whoa, whoa we must be born again

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**SCENE 3**

*(The Headquarters set is frozen. Lights up on Older Dee and Scribe, who's writing at the desk.)*

**OLDER DEE: Reopening this case energized us in the days to follow.**

**SCRIBE:** *(writing as Older Dee talks)* **I bet it did!**

**OLDER DEE:** *(thinking aloud)* **No, scratch that ... too predictable ...** *(Scribe scratches it out)* **reopening this case took over our lives! We all gave whatever it took to crack the code for “born again” and “eternal life.” No sleep. Our eyes glazed over from reading endless scrolls of Scripture searching for prophecies, looking for answers. Hour after hour. Scratch that ...** *(thinking)* **more meticulous ...** *(Scribe scratches it out)* **uh ... minute by minute, until our next breakthrough!**

*(Lights down on Older Dee and up on Headquarters. Actors unfreeze.)*

**CHIEF:** **Numbers, any breakthroughs on what “born again” means?**

**NUMBERS:** **It's quite a puzzle, Chief. Jane, please read us the rest of Agent Dee's report where Nicodemus asked the question.**

**JANE:** *(flipping through her clipboard notes)* **Alright, here it is. Nicodemus asked, “How can someone be born when they are old?”**



- NUMBERS: **That is the question. I've calculated every possible scenario, Chief, and by all indications, Jesus *has* to be talking about a different kind of birth. He mentions "born of the Spirit" when He says ... well, give it to us exactly, Jane.**
- JANE: **He said, "Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit."**
- CHIEF: *(thinking aloud)* **So it's a second birth that seems to happen within your spirit ... something *supernatural*.**
- (A ruckus interrupts as a group enters—Dee, Knox, Bree, and Lenny, blindfolded.)*
- CHIEF: **What is going on here?**
- KNOX: **We have someone who's going to talk, Chief ... or else.**
- JANE: **Who is this, Knox?**
- KNOX: **This is Lenny, the donkey lender.**
- DEE: **Alright, Lenny, spill it. What was your interaction with Jesus and His followers?**
- LENNY: **Where am I? Who are you guys?**
- KNOX: **It's top secret. *We're* top secret! In fact, we're so top secret *we're* not even sure we exist!**
- LENNY: **I want to speak with my attorney!**
- BREE: **I think it's time to dial up this interrogation!**
- LENNY: *(frightened)* **No!**
- (Knox and Bree pull feathers out of their back pockets and begin to tickle Lenny's ears. Lenny begins to laugh hysterically.)*
- KNOX: **We'll keep this up until you spill your guts, Lenny!**
- LENNY: **Okay ... okay ... please stop! I'm gonna wet my pants!**
- (Knox and Bree stop with the feathers.)*
- DEE: **Tell us what you know.**



- LENNY: **Alright ... two of Jesus' followers came by my house and asked to borrow my donkey and its colt. I asked them what they needed it for and they said it was for the Lord.**
- KNOX: *(menacingly waving the feather)* **And then ...**
- LENNY: **And then Jesus came riding into Jerusalem on the donkey. The crowd was shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" We were all asking, "Who is this?" And people said it was Jesus, the prophet from Galilee.**
- DEE: *(with authority)* **Alright, take this witness away. *(nicely)* Oh, and thank you!**
- LENNY: *(confused)* **You're welcome?**
- DEE: **So this Jesus is our key ... a teacher, a prophet from Galilee ...**
- GADGET: *(interrupting)* **Chief! Something I read late last night in the scrolls connects here. The prophet Zechariah said, "Rejoice greatly, Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your King comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."**
- DEE: **It's what just happened!**
- CHIEF: **Numbers, how do you work a puzzle?**
- NUMBERS: *(confidently, emphasizing "one")* **One piece at a time!**
- (music begins to "He Is")*
- CHIEF: **And this puzzle is starting to come together. Everyone, let's see what else we can uncover about Jesus! I'm thinking He will lead us to the secret of eternal life.**

#### SONG 4: "HE IS"

##### verse

Who is this man that draws a crowd  
To hear Him teach?  
A man that heals the broken,  
Cures the sick, and calms the sea.



Who is this man that claims  
To be God's only Son?  
Could it be just as it's written,  
Could He be the one?

**chorus**

He is the image of the invisible God  
Firstborn of all creation  
In Him all things were created  
And He holds all things together  
He is the beginning  
He is the most exalted One  
All the fullness of God  
He is, He is  
All the peace we need with God  
He is, He is

**bridge**

Alpha and Omega, Almighty One  
Faithful and True, God's Beloved Son  
Wonderful Counselor, The Way, the Truth, the Life  
Light of the World, Son of the Most High  
Emmanuel, Cornerstone  
Bread of Life, Our Hope  
Lamb of God, Lord of All  
Jesus

**chorus**

He is the image of the invisible God  
Firstborn of all creation  
In Him all things were created  
And He holds all things together  
He is the beginning  
He is the most exalted One  
All the fullness of God  
He is, He is  
All the peace we need with God  
He is, He is

**chorus tag**

He is the beginning  
He is the most exalted One  
All the fullness of God  
He is, He is  
All the peace we need with God  
He is, He is



All the peace we need with God  
He is, He is

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#### SCENE 4

*(At Headquarters people are busy at work.)*

JANE: **Gadget, Chief wants a report on “eternal life” when you’re ready.**

GADGET: **Yes, I’m ready. Would you please read Jesus’ statement for us again, Jane?**

*(Everyone gathers for the report.)*

JANE: **“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”**

NUMBERS: **What do you think it means, Gadget?**

GADGET: **Well, based on what we know now about Jesus and what we’ve learned of the prophecies ... I believe Jesus is connecting the dots that He is the Son of God!**

ALL: *(ad lib. “Wow!” “Really?” “Do you think He is?” etc.)*

CHIEF: **This is getting intense. That’s a serious claim!**

GADGET: **It sure is. And remember in the encounter Agent Dee overheard, Jesus kept referring to “the Father.” I think He’s talking about God.**

CHIEF: **Good work, Gadget.**

GADGET: **Oh, and one more thing! I’ve developed a new technology I call “bugs.” You place *actual* bugs near the informants to really get “up close and personal”! Who knows what those bugs will get out of ’em!**

*(Another ruckus interrupts as Agent Dee, Knox, and Bree enter with two Pharisees wearing blindfolds.)*



JANE: **Now what?!**

KNOX: **We found some more informants, Chief!**

BREE: **We saw these guys in a group, talking with Nicodemus.**

CHIEF: **Alright, let's hear what they have to say!**

*(A pause as the Pharisees stay quiet but scratch manically at their ankles.)*

DEE: **What's the matter? Cat got your tongue?**

PHARISEE 1: **I wish! Somehow some bugs got my ankles!**

PHARISEE 2: **I'm itching like crazy!**

*(Gadget beams with pride.)*

KNOX: **Good! Well, you'd better talk or we'll give you more of those ... uh ...**

GADGET: **Bugs!**

PHARISEE 1: **Please, no! The itching, it's torture!**

PHARISEE 2: **You're taking this way too far!**

BREE: **Like you're one to talk!**

DEE: **Tell us who Nicodemus is or we'll bring in the secret weapon!**

*(no reply)*

KNOX: **Trust me, you don't want the secret weapon.**

BREE: **Bring her in!**

*(Grandma enters and causes havoc.)*

GRANDMA: **Well, look at you two boys, aren't you the sweetest things?! (a big hug to Pharisee 1) You look so cute with your blindfolds. I've just got to pinch those cheeks! (pinching the cheek of Pharisee 2) You both have gotten so big, but not too big for one of my stories ...**

PHARISEES: *(ad lib., "Enough!" "Please stop!" etc.)*

DEE: **Thanks, Grandma.**



GRANDMA: *(as she exits)* **Anytime, Sweetie.**

KNOX: **Now, spill it!**

PHARISEE 1: **Okay ... okay ... but this is an outrage! Don't you know who we are?! We are Pharisees—and so is Nicodemus.**

PHARISEE 2: **We're all upstanding leaders in the Synagogue.**

DEE: **What were you all talking about earlier today?**

PHARISEE 1: **We'd sent the Temple Police to arrest Jesus but they came back without Him. This man is causing all kinds of trouble with the people.**

PHARISEE 2: **And with us! He claims to be the Son of God!**

DEE: **What does Nicodemus have to do with this?**

PHARISEE 1: **I'm not sure. When we wanted to arrest Jesus, he just said, "Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?"**

PHARISEE 2: **The nerve!**

KNOX: **That's enough out of you two.**

*(Knox and Bree usher the two Pharisees off stage.)*

GADGET: *(proudly)* **How 'bout those bugs I planted?!**

DEE: **Great idea, Gadget!**

CHIEF: *(thinking)* **So no more darkness for Nicodemus. Now he's speaking up in the daylight ... in front of his peers.**

JANE: **Sounds like Nicodemus is still searching out this Jesus too.**

DEE: **The picture of our puzzle is getting clearer. Born again ... Spirit gives birth to spirit ...**

GADGET: **... Jesus, the Son of God, gives eternal life.**

NUMBERS: **I feel like we're missing *one* piece ... one key piece to this puzzle.**

*(music begins to "Ask, Seek, Knock")*



CHIEF:           **So we stay at it. Let's keep seeking. I believe we'll find what we're looking for!**

*(Dee exits)*

SONG 5: "ASK, SEEK, KNOCK"

**chorus**

I will ask, seek, knock  
To know You, to love You  
I will ask, seek, knock  
To let myself be loved by You  
Every day I will choose  
To bring all my heart to You  
I will ask, seek, knock  
I will ask, seek, knock

**verse**

You've given me a heart to know You  
You've invited me to believe  
I will seek You with all my heart  
By the grace You've given me

**chorus**

I will ask, seek, knock  
To know You, to love You  
I will ask, seek, knock  
To let myself be loved by You  
Every day I will choose  
To bring all my heart to You  
I will ask, seek, knock  
I will ask, seek, knock

**scripture readers**

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:12

**chorus**

I will ask, seek, knock  
To know You, to love You  
I will ask, seek, knock  
To let myself be loved by You  
Every day I will choose  
To bring all my heart to You



I will ask, seek, knock  
I will ask, seek, knock  
I will ask, seek, knock  
I will ask, seek, knock

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## SCENE 5

*(At Headquarters, everyone is working. Knox and Bree enter in a hurry.)*

JANE: **Knox! Bree! What's wrong?**

*(Everyone gathers center stage to hear the news.)*

KNOX: **This city has gone crazy!**

CHIEF: **Again? Now what happened?**

BREE: **Jesus was arrested.**

ALL: *(ad lib. "what?" "I can't believe it?" "why?" etc.)*

KNOX: **It seems He was betrayed by one of His followers.**

CHIEF: *(interrupting)* **I knew it! A double agent!**

BREE: *(continuing)* **Then Caiaphas, the Chief Priest had Jesus arrested.**

GADGET: **What's going to happen?**

BREE: **I don't know. I heard they sent Him to Pilate and he had Jesus beaten pretty badly.**

*(Dee comes running in.)*

NUMBERS: **Dee! Are you okay?**

DEE: **Have you heard what's happening?**

ALL: *(ad lib. "Yes!" "we heard," "can't believe it," etc.)*



DEE:           *(out of breath)* **There was a mob of people ... Pilate said he would release a prisoner ... Jesus or Barabbas. The mob shouted for him to release Barabbas. Jesus is going to be crucified!**

ALL:           *(ad lib. "What?!" "No!" etc.)*

DEE:           **What do we do, Chief?**

*(music begins to "Upon the Cross")*

CHIEF:       **I don't know. I don't know, Dee. This is unbelievable news. I don't know what to make of it.**

### SONG 6: "UPON THE CROSS"

#### **verse**

Upon His back, the wounds He bore  
Upon His brow, the crown of thorns  
Our perfect sacrifice, Jesus  
Our sin He carried, nailed Him there  
The love He shared, it held Him there  
Our perfect sacrifice, Jesus

#### **channel**

No greater love will we ever see  
No greater grace could we receive

#### **chorus**

There is life because of Jesus  
Hope came for all the lost  
There is grace because of Jesus' death upon the cross  
There is mercy and forgiveness  
Joy came at such a cost  
There is grace because of Jesus' death upon the cross

#### **scripture reader**

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  
and all are justified freely by His grace  
through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."  
Romans 3:23-24

#### **channel**

No greater love will we ever see  
No greater grace could we receive



**chorus**

There is life because of Jesus  
Hope came for all the lost  
There is grace because of Jesus' death upon the cross  
There is mercy and forgiveness  
Joy came at such a cost  
There is grace because of Jesus' death upon the cross  
There is grace because of Jesus' death upon the cross  
Upon the cross

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**SCENE 6**

*(Lights up on stage left. Headquarters is empty. Older Dee stands by Scribe sitting at the desk. Scribe writes as Dee talks.)*

**SCRIBE:**      **So what did you do, Dee?**

**OLDER DEE:** **After Jesus was crucified, we thought it was the end. Surprisingly, Nicodemus again appeared on the scene.**

**SCRIBE:**      **Oh, I remember that happening. He and Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus' body down from the cross and laid it in a tomb.**

**OLDER DEE:** **That's right. Nicodemus went from a secret conversation in the dark of night, to a conversation in broad daylight with his peers, to a public expression of love for Jesus!**

**SCRIBE:**      **I guess you closed the case after that.**

**OLDER DEE:** **Are you kidding? You remember ... three days later, a *miracle* happened! Jesus' body was resurrected from the grave.**

**SCRIBE:**      **So did you *ever* close the case?**

**OLDER DEE:** **It was years and years before we would finally close the case of "The Mysterious Encounter Between Nicodemus and Jesus." It took a key witness ... John ... one of Jesus' followers to testify as he captured *all* these truths on paper. And in chapter three verse sixteen, John wrote the actual words Jesus spoke to**



**Nicodemus that night ... how belief in Jesus leads to forgiveness of sin, eternal life, *and* a new identity in Jesus.**

**SCRIBE: All the secrets of the mystery revealed!**

**OLDER DEE: When we began to unravel all those secrets, we thought we needed to protect them so they wouldn't fall into the wrong hands. But *we* were wrong! These secrets didn't need to be protected, we needed to share them with everyone ... (*music begins to "I Believe"*) with the world ... so the world could hear and believe!**

**SONG 7: "I BELIEVE"**

**chorus**

I believe what I read in John three sixteen  
I believe God sent His Son for you and me  
I believe Jesus died to set us free  
I believe, I believe, I believe

**chorus**

I believe what I read in John three sixteen  
I believe God sent His Son for you and me  
I believe Jesus died to set us free  
I believe, I believe, I believe

**verse**

For God so loved the world  
That He gave His one and only Son  
That whoever believes in Him  
Shall not perish but have eternal life

**chorus**

I believe what I read in John three sixteen  
I believe God sent His Son for you and me  
I believe Jesus died to set us free  
I believe, I believe, I believe

**bridge (ensemble)**

For God so loved the world  
That He gave, He gave His one and only Son  
That who, whoever believes in Him  
Shall not perish but have eternal life  
For God so loved the world  
That He gave, He gave His one and only Son



That who, whoever believes in Him  
Shall not perish but have eternal life

**chorus**

I believe what I read in John three sixteen  
I believe God sent His Son for you and me  
I believe Jesus died to set us free  
I believe, I believe, I believe

**chorus (and bridge)**

I believe what I read in John three sixteen  
I believe God sent His Son for you and me  
I believe Jesus died to set us free  
I believe, I believe, I believe, I believe

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**SCENE 7**

*(Lights up on stage left. Older Dee stands by Scribe sitting at the desk. Scribe writes as Dee talks.)*

**SCRIBE:** That's an *amazing* story, Dee! So were there more mysteries for JI3 to solve after this one?

**OLDER DEE:** No ... **this was our last case. Chief, Jane, Numbers, Gadget ... every one of us decided that after all of this ... (thinking) no, change that ... (Scribe scratches that out) because of all of this, Jesus gave each of us a new identity in Him, and a new mission to live!**

*(music begins to "The Born Again Identity Curtain Calls")*

**SONG: "THE BORN AGAIN IDENTITY CURTAIN CALLS"**

**"Born Again"**

**scripture readers**

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3



**bridge**

There's hope for the hopeless, love and forgiveness  
All authority in Jesus, sent to redeem us, we can be free

**chorus**

Born again, born again  
Our lives transformed within  
No matter what good we do on the outside  
The change we need is within  
Born again, born again  
By God's Spirit we're born again  
Whoa, whoa, whoa we must be born again  
Whoa, whoa, whoa we must be born again

**"I Believe"**

**chorus**

I believe what I read in John three sixteen  
I believe God sent His Son for you and me  
I believe Jesus died to set us free  
I believe, I believe, I believe

**bridge**

For God so loved the world  
That He gave, He gave His one and only Son  
That who, whoever believes in Him  
Shall not perish but have eternal life  
For God so loved the world  
That He gave, He gave His one and only Son  
That who, whoever believes in Him  
Shall not perish but have eternal life

**chorus**

I believe what I read in John three sixteen  
I believe God sent His Son for you and me  
I believe Jesus died to set us free  
I believe, I believe, I believe

**chorus (and bridge)**

I believe what I read in John three sixteen  
I believe God sent His Son for you and me  
I believe Jesus died to set us free  
I believe, I believe, I believe, I believe



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