

**June 5, 2012**

**LITTLE HANDS CAN HELP**

**Staging:**

- Small stage
- 2 Side curtains (with dowel rods)
- 2 wing panels
- 2 masking panels
- 1 rear panel (green)
- 1 front panel (brown)
- 3 tension rods
- Backdrop - Cloud and grass fabric
- Multiple clamps of various sizes
- Box of push pins

**Lighting:**

- 2 black (with extra flood lamps)
- 1 short/light extension cord
- 2-plug dimmer (with strap)
- 1 long/heavy-duty extension cord (with strap)

**Sound:**

- 2 hand mics
- 1 wireless headset

**Tools:**

- 7/16 wrench
- Hammer
- Wood block
- Nail set

**Props:**

- Sound box (Tiger sound)
- Squeaky toy
- Net (green)

**Cast (Puppets):**

- Meridith (hostess)
- Joe (host)
- Lion
- Mouse

MERIDITH

Good morning, everyone! (Improvise until kids respond.)

Welcome once again to Little Hands Vacation Bible School! My name is Meridith.

JOE

And I'm Joe!

MERIDITH

We're your hosts for this portion of our program, and today, we want to show you how "Little Hands Can *Help!*" We're very excited to...

JOE

Wait a minute! Wait a minute!

(In staged whisper to Meridith.) What do you mean, how "Little Hands Can *Help?*" What can *little* hands possibly do to help? Meridith, that's why they call them "little" ...

MERIDITH

Well, of course they're "little," but that doesn't mean they can't help, Joe. Even the littlest of hands can help, if they really put their minds to it. Don't forget the story of "The Lion and the Mouse." That tiny mouse screwed up his courage to save the king of beasts!

JOE (sarcastically)

Yeah. Right. A mouse saving a lion. Ha, ha. That's a good one.

MERIDITH

No, it's true Joe. And it happened like this:

[HOUSE LIGHTS DOWN. STAGE LIGHTS UP]

Once upon a time there was a great lion who loved to strut around and listen to his own roar.

[LION ENTERS ON ROAR]

The other animals were all afraid of him, and he liked it that way, because it made him feel important.

[LION ROAR]

But one day, he was out walking, and suddenly...something fell out of a tree!

[NET DROPS TO COVER LION]

[LION ROAR]

It was a big, strong net, and the lion was trapped inside!

[LION ROAR]

And the more he struggled, the tighter it became, until he was thoroughly stuck. With no way out, he could only roar his frustration...

[LION ROAR]

But after a time, his frustration became fear, for he knew whoever had left the trap would eventually come back for it and find him. And then he was *very* afraid, because he knew there was no one to help him. He knew none of the other animals would *want* to help him, since he had never been nice to any of them, and even if they did come, they wouldn't be able to help him out of the trap.

[LION ROAR]

But just then, he heard something!

[MOUSE SQUEAK. IT CONTINUES APPROPRIATELY THROUGHOUT THE REST OF THE PLAY.]

The lion wasn't sure but...no, there it was! It was a mouse!

"Oh, isn't that just fine," the lion thought angrily. "A mouse is just what I need. He'll just laugh at me for getting stuck in this trap. All the other animals would, too, of course, but it's just humiliating that it has to be a tiny little mouse."

[LION ROAR]

Well, the mouse was afraid of the lion, even stuck as he was in the big net, but there was just something about the sound of that last roar that made him stop and think.

Then the mouse did a very brave thing! He went to the lion, climbed up on his back, and after a moment...

[MOUSE SQUEAK AND CHEWING – CONTINUES UNTIL LION IS FREE.]

"Now, what?" thought the lion, hearing this strange new sound. "What's that pesky mouse up to?"

But the mouse just kept chewing and chewing and chewing away at that horrible net, and after what seemed like a very long time...the net fell away!

Up jumped the lion! [LION ROAR] He was free at last!

Then he saw the little mouse, cowering in the grass, terrified of him. But the lion reached out to sniff the little mouse. He gave him a swipe with his big wet tongue and boosted him onto his back.

“No one was going to hurt *this* mouse,” the lion thought. “This mouse is going to have a safe escort home!”

[LION ROAR. MOUSE SQUEAK. LION AND MOUSE EXIT.]

And that’s the story of “The Lion and the Mouse.”

[HOUSE LIGHTS UP TO CUE APPLAUSE.] [A grownup will need to start this.]

[LION AND MOUSE TAKE A BOW AND EXIT AGAIN. STAGE LIGHTS DOWN.]

MERIDITH

So, you see, Joe, even the tiniest of hands can help, if they’re willing to try.

JOE

Okay, Meridith. You’re right. I guess the next step is to figure out who needs help and just what we can do, even with our little hands!