



# PRISONS WEEK 2009 RESOURCES

HOPE DRAMA

## HOLD FAST TO HOPE!

*Four Prisoners are on a landing in a wing of a prison.  
Prisoner 1 is on his own.  
Prisoner 1 to himself.*

Prisoner 1 I'm overwhelmed with anxiety and depression.  
I've reached a state of utter despair in my life.

*Prisoners 2-4 overhear him and come to him.*

Prisoner 2 What's wrong with you, mate?

Prisoner 1 I'm in a bad space, man.

Prisoner 2 What happened?

Prisoner 1 I look back at my life,  
all the wrongs I've committed, all the pain I've caused others,  
and I feel crushed with guilt and shame.

Prisoner 2 What triggered these gloomy thoughts?

Prisoner 1 I dunno. I was in my cell thinking of my loved ones at home  
and all the pain they're enduring because of me.  
Then I thought of the victims of my crimes,  
but this time, for some reason,  
I relived what happened from their point of view  
and it hit me like a brick.  
Suddenly I could see and hear their pain,  
I could feel their sorrow in my bones.  
And I knew that I'm the one who caused it all.  
I was instantly thrown into a furnace of guilt and despair,  
from which there's no way out.

*Prisoner 1 to himself.*

I merit nothing but God's vengeance.  
I deserve to be punished  
and spend the rest of my life repaying for all my sins.

Prisoner 3 Bro, there is a way out!

Prisoner 1 What d'you mean? How could there be a way out of hell?  
I've sinned against God, against my victims and against society  
and I'm chained to my wrongs for all eternity.

Prisoner 3 Christ is the way out of hell. Turn to Him and He'll forgive your sins.

Prisoner 1 How could Christ forgive my sins when they cry to heaven for retribution?

Prisoner 3 Christ offered His own body and shed His blood to wipe away your offences.  
His sacrifice has won you a permanent place at God's right hand,  
if you're ready to put your trust in Him.

Prisoner 1 I don't deserve it!

Prisoner 4 Don't reject God's offer to save you and transform you,  
for Christ is the only one who can give you a new life.  
Only He can assure you of salvation and set you free.

Prisoner 1 I'm not worthy of being forgiven. I'm not worthy of being saved.  
What about my victims? They're still suffering! Why should I be forgiven?

Prisoner 2 Christ will help you repair the damage you've caused.  
He'll help you make amends.

Prisoner 1 I want to take full responsibility for what I've done.  
And I want to right my wrongs.

*Prisoner 1 to himself.*

If only there was a way for me to meet my victims face to face  
and hear their stories,  
hear from their own mouths all the pain I've caused;  
then I'd fall on my knees and truly beg for forgiveness.

*Prisoner 1 to the others.*

I'm willing to pray for them every day of my life.  
I only want to make reparation  
and help them gain back their peace of mind and restore their dignity.

*Prisoner 1 to himself.*

I don't want to re-offend, I've had enough.  
But I'm weak and I can't do it alone.

Prisoner 3 Christ will be with you.

Prisoner 1 I need help to change my ways and rehabilitate myself.  
I want to start contributing positively to this society  
and reintegrate myself into the community.  
I want to be there for my loved ones,  
as much as my circumstances allow.

Prisoner 4 For this you'll need to enter  
into a deep relationship with Jesus Christ.  
He wants to meet you personally and love you.  
Focus on His love for you, and He'll do the rest.

Hold fast to hope!

## Questions for discussion

- 1) How do you react to this play? In which ways can you relate to it personally?
- 2) Prisoner 1 was crushed by anxiety and depression. He felt guilty and shameful because of his crimes. He could see no way out and was overwhelmed by despair.
  - Do you sometimes struggle with the same emotions?
- 3) Prisoner 1 was honest enough with himself to look at his crimes from the point of view of his victims.
  - In your life are you willing to look at reality from the point of view of the people you have hurt? Are you willing to right your wrongs? Are you ready to make amends and repair the damage you have caused?
- 4) Prisoner 1 wanted to change but was aware of his own weakness. He realised that only Christ could set him free and save him.
  - Are you willing to give your life to Christ? Are you willing to accept His forgiveness? Are you willing to focus on His love for you and let Him do the rest?

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**Prisons week 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2009**

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**A week of prayer for all those involved with prisons**

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