

RAGMAN

Song: The Ragman
Artist: Fred Brown & Andrea Michaud
Choreography: The origin of this drama is unknown, but versions of it have been used around the world by many ministries. This version is DRIME's adaptation of Ragman.
Biblical Reference: Philippians 2:5-11; John 19:17; Acts 5:30; Galatians 6:14; Hebrews 12:2; Isaiah 53:3-5

The love and compassion of Christ is the central focus of this drama. Three characters are portrayed with various sorrows and iniquities, but Jesus looks at each of them and desires to heal them. Looking to Heaven and praying to the Father, He touches each of their lives and takes their pain and their hurt upon Himself. He cries, limps, and takes on the blindness. He takes it to the cross where He is crucified for all mankind. Jesus is lowered to the ground, and after a significant pause, which represents three days in the tomb, He is resurrected and exalted.

CHARACTERS

Jesus (J): male
Weeper (W): female
Lame (L): male or female*
Blind (B): male or female*

*Throughout this script, Lame will be referred to as a male and Blind as a female to correspond with the training video. However, both of these roles can be played by both genders.

PROPS/COSTUMES

1 white t-shirt 1 white rag/handkerchief

STAGE DIRECTIONS

backstage

upstage right	upstage	upstage left
stage right	center stage	stage left
downstage right	downstage	downstage left

audience

OVERVIEW OF ALL MEASURES

(each measure is 4 beats)

The Characters (15 measures)

- 3 Characters frozen
- 3 Weeper
- 4 Lame
- 5 Blind

Jesus Takes Their Burdens (33 measures)

- 4 Jesus reaches out to his children with compassion
- 9 Jesus heals Weeper
- 9 Jesus heals Lame
- 11 Jesus heals Blind

The Crucifixion (17 measures)

- 5 Jesus stumbles to the cross and accepts God's plan
- 7 Jesus is crucified and dies
- 5 Jesus is lowered into the tomb and the characters mourn over him

The Resurrection (8 measures)

- 8 Jesus rises from the dead and shows himself to the characters. They bow to him in praise.

DETAILED DRAMA SCRIPT

(each measure is 4 beats)

The Characters (15 measures)

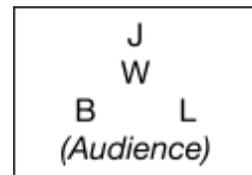
All characters stand at the back of the stage with their backs to the audience, their heads down and their feet together. The order they stand in from stage right to stage left is Lame, Weeper, Jesus, and Blind.

[3 measures] All characters are frozen.

[3 measures] On beat 1 (the first chime), Weeper slowly lifts her head. On beat 1 of the next measure, she turns to the left to face the audience and takes steps to stand directly behind Jesus, while wiping her rag under her eyes to show she is crying. She freezes after 8 beats with the rag under her left eye.

[4 measures] Lame slowly lifts his head on beat 1 (the second chime). He turns to the left and grabs his right knee on beat 1 of the second measure. He limps in a diagonal past Weeper to stage left, clutching his leg with an expression of pain. Lame has 2 measures to reach his position then he freezes, still clutching his leg.

[5 measures] On beat 1 (the third chime), Blind slowly lifts her head. On beat 1 of the second measure, Blind turns to the right to slowly walk diagonally to stage right for 4 measures. Unable to see, she holds her hands directly in front of her and feels around as if making sure she will not walk into anything. She has an expression of fear and frustration and walks cautiously; she may even stumble. (To enhance the appearance of being blind, she can lock her eyes on one thing in the audience.) She freezes in line with Lame, hands up. Weeper, Lame & Blind should form a triangle (see diagram).



Jesus Takes Their Burdens (33 measures)

[4 measures] All characters stand frozen for the first measure. Then Jesus slowly lifts his head on beat 1 of the second measure (the sound of cymbals). On beat 1 of measure 3, he turns to the right to face the audience and look at his children. He reaches towards each character with compassion on a different chime in the music, ending at Weeper.

[9 measures] On beat 1, Jesus turns towards stage left and lifts both hands towards heaven to pray for God's power. He lowers his hands and turns back to Weeper during the next measure. On



beat 1 of the third measure, Jesus opens his left hand in front of Weeper's face (see image). In measures 4 and 5, he turns left to lift his hands in prayer again and then lowers them to turn back to face Weeper. Jesus pulls the rag from Weeper's hands on beat 1 of measure 6; Weeper reacts with joy and wipes the tears from under her eyes. Jesus & Weeper hug on beat 1 of the next measure and continue to face each other when they pull away. Jesus holds his right arm straight out to the side and bends his left arm at the elbow so his hand is in front of his chest and is also pointing to the right. For measures 8 and 9, he lifts both arms up and turns them in a complete circle so that they end in the same starting position. Weeper looks at Jesus with a big smile as he is sending her off and walks upstage when the circle is complete, ending with her back to the audience.

[9 measures] For the first 2 measures, Jesus starts to cry with Weeper's rag and walks towards Lame. He kneels to look at Lame's hurt leg on beat 5. In measures 3 and 4, Jesus stands and turns towards stage right and to lift his hands in prayer to God, then kneels to face Lame again in preparation to heal the leg. Jesus puts his hands on the sides of Lame's hurt leg and pumps his arms 4 times as Lame quickly lifts his leg in the same timing (the first pump/lift is one whole beat and the next 3 are half-beats). The last leg lift is bigger than the others and includes a little jump. Jesus and Lame hug in measure 7, and Jesus sends Lame off in the same way as Weeper. Lame also walks upstage left and stands in line with Weeper. He should be a little more than an arm's length away from Weeper with his back to the audience.

[11 measures] Jesus also takes Lame's burden onto himself and now walks with a limp in his left leg in addition to crying. On beat 1, he stumbles and grabs his left leg then walks towards Blind for the first 2 measures. Jesus opens his left hand three times in front of Blind's face starting on beat 3 of the third measure (the first is one whole beat and the next 2 are half-beats), then he turns and takes a couple steps towards stage left. On beat 1 of measure 5, he lifts both hands in prayer and in measure 6, he lowers his hands and returns to Blind so he can open his hand in front of her face as before (3 times – one whole beat then 2 half-beats). Then Jesus turns towards stage left once more to lift his hands towards heaven and pray. On beat 1 of measure 8, he throws his arms outward towards Blind's eyes to heal her. Blind immediately reacts with an expression of amazement, looking at her hands with wonder. They hug in the next measure, and Jesus sends Blind upstage for the last 2 measures in the same manner as the other two. Blind stands to the right of Weeper, an arm's length away from her, with her back to the audience.

The Crucifixion (17 measures)

[5 measures] Jesus takes on blindness in addition to his lame leg and weeping and starts to stumble backwards. Jesus stumbles upstage for 3 measures and ends directly behind Weeper. Once there, Jesus has a moment with his Father and looks upward (on the drum beats), accepting his Father's plan. Jesus also drops the rag when he arrives at his position.

[7 measures] On beat 1, Jesus grabs Weeper's wrists, and uses 2 measures to lift his and her arms to form the cross. Weeper's hands are in fists. On beat 1 of measure 3, Jesus opens his right hand to show that it is nailed to the cross, followed by his left hand on beat 1 of the next measure and his feet on beat 1 of measure 5. With each nail, Jesus reacts with an expression of pain and agony. Jesus dies by dropping his head and hands on beat 1 of the last measure and Weeper takes the full measure to lower her arms.



[5 measures] Lame and Blind turn toward Jesus and get ready to lower him to the ground by grabbing his wrist with one hand and moving the other under his arm to grasp his shoulder from the front. They take the next measure to lower him to the ground and kneel beside him to mourn. Once Jesus is lying on the ground, Lame brings the arm he was holding to Jesus' side and Blind bends Jesus' other arm to place it under his forehead. Weeper follows as they lower Jesus and kneels on Jesus' right side with Blind. All three characters spend the next 3 measures weeping and mourning over Jesus.

The Resurrection (8 measures)



[8 measures] On beat 1, Jesus breathes and takes 3 measures to slowly rise to his knees. The other characters stop crying and stare in shock, but the shock turns to joy as they notice Jesus is alive. As he slowly stands, Jesus shows the characters the scars on his hands to show that it is truly him. Meanwhile, Blind moves to kneel in front of Jesus so they form a semi-circle around him. All characters should be kneeling on one knee and facing Jesus at this point. In measure 6, all 4 characters slowly lift both hands for 4 beats and look up at Jesus in praise. Weeper, Lame & Blind wait 3 beats then flip their wrists over to lower their arms for the last measure and bow before Jesus.

All characters stay in their final position as the music fades.