



# Circus!

By Deborah Wassenberg

## Roll Up, Roll Up!

*Time for Kid's Church Volunteers to dress up...again! The Leader will become the Ring Master to officiate and keep the program moving. CAUTION! Children can be afraid of clowns. If your program is across all ages I recommend the only volunteer dressed as a clown should be the one acting the part of Bubbles the Clown. She will perform on stage (or the marked out performance area) meaning the children can watch her from a distance. After the skit, when children have got to know her, she should be able to mingle without upsetting anyone. The only other clowns will be the children themselves when they dress up for the photo booth, or have their faces painted. But, you know your children best...and your kids might not care at all!*

## Activities:

- Photo booth (circus tent background and clown costumes and props like wigs, bow ties, hats, big glasses, hoops)
- Circus School (walk the tight rope, jump through a flaming hoop, juggle, lift the Strongman's weights)
- Side Show Alley – hoopla, coconut shy, jumping castle
- Popcorn and Fairy Floss

## Song Suggestions:

- I Am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N
- I Am a Christian (Ken Blount Ministries)
- Wake (KPTV)

## Lesson: Skit 'No Laughing Matter'

### *Characters:*

**Bubbles the Clown.** *Bubbles is normally a joyful clown. She wears a costume with lots of polka dots and bright colours. Avoid white clown make up, and instead use pretty eye make-up, a clown nose and hair colouring. The costume can do the rest. Bubbles will need a very big handkerchief, and a sturdy but lightweight chair centre stage. Under the chair is a dark coloured bucket hiding confetti.*

**Lion Tamer.** Black boots, trousers or jodhpurs and a safari type shirt. Fake moustache (don't overdo it as you don't want to detract from what the Lion Tamer says). The Lion Tamer will need a lightweight chair to carry on with him.

*Bubbles enters (stage left) looking sad and dejected. Ignoring the children she walks straight to a wall (stage right) and rests her forehead on it and wails comically while flapping her handkerchief, and loudly blowing into it. Then she turns to the back wall (centre stage) and repeats the wailing, flapping and noisy blowing. Still ignoring the children, she approaches the chair (centre stage) but instead of sitting on it, she plants her face on the seat and pathetically drapes her hands down by her sides to the floor (bottom facing stage right and may need to kneel down).*

*Lion Tamer enters (stage left). He is brandishing his chair like a sword towards stage left where he has just come from. (You can add some lion sound effects if you wish!)*

Lion Tamer: Back! Get back I say! Yes, that's more like it!

*Satisfied he has tamed the lion in the wings, the Lion Tamer, lowers his chair and sees Bubbles.*

Lion Tamer: Bubbles? Bubbles the Clown...is that you?

*Bubbles doesn't answer except to lift her one arm and use her hand to nod 'yes'. Then she flops her arm down again.*

Lion Tamer: May I join you?

*Bubbles doesn't answer except to lift her arm again to use her hand to nod 'yes'. Then her arm flops back down. Lion Tamer places his chair next to hers centre stage and rests one boot on it, and folds his arms as he looks at her.*

Lion Tamer: Hmm. You know, I don't think you really are Bubbles the Clown.

*Bubbles lifts her arm up and 'nods' her hand yes again.*

Lion Tamer: No, in fact I'm sure you're not.

*Bubbles lifts her arm up and 'nods' her hand more vigorously.*

Lion Tamer: No, sorry, you're not Bubbles the Clown.

*Bubble's arm lifts and she 'nods' her hand again very fast.*

Lion Tamer: I don't believe you are Bubbles the Clown because Bubbles the Clown is, well, bubbly! She is funny and cheerful and full of joy. You don't look like any of those things to me.

Bubbles: UGH!

*Bubbles stands up and looks at the Lion Tamer and makes a Ta-Da action as if to say, 'See, it is me!' Then she plonks herself down on the chair. The Lion Tamer looks at her wonderingly.*

Lion Tamer: There's only one way I'll believe you are Bubbles and that's if I see you smile.

*Bubbles scowls and crosses her arm. She is not going to smile.*

Lion Tamer: Yes, it's as I suspected. You are not Bubbles the Clown. You are an imposter! I shall fetch the Ring Master right away! *(Pretends to leave.)*

*Bubbles shakes her head and reaches out to him as if imploring him to stop.*

Lion Tamer: Well?

*Bubbles sniffs, sits up straight, stares full ahead, and smiles...a little at a time. One corner of her mouth first. Then the other side. A little closed mouth smile that becomes a full beaming one. She holds the smile in place while pointing at it as if to say, 'See, it is me.'*

Lion Tamer: Oh, there she is. I apologize. I see you are indeed Bubbles the Clown. *(Lion Tamer now sits beside her on his chair.)* What's this all about Bubbles?

Bubbles: They're making fun of me!

Lion Tamer: Who is making fun of you?

Bubbles: The other kids at Clown School.

Lion Tamer: Let me guess. Is it your hair? They're making fun of your hair?

Bubbles: *(Touching her hair and fluffing it up)* No, it's not my hair!

Lion Tamer: Oh, it's your dotty clothes, isn't it? They're seeing spots before their eyes?

Bubbles: *(Jumping up and looking down at her skirt.)* No! It's not my clothes. What's wrong with spots? My clothes are beautiful thank you very much!

Lion Tamer: Oh, I've got it now. *(Stands and says in a half whisper to her.)* It's your nose. It's your nose they're teasing you about.

Bubbles: *(Touching her nose and looking shocked.)* My nose? No, it's a perfectly good clown nose!

Lion Tamer: *(Sitting back down.)* I give up. What are the other kids making fun of you about?

Bubbles: They're making fun of me because I'm a Christian!

Lion Tamer: Are they indeed?

Bubbles: Yes! They make fun of me because I believe God created everything. The kids think I'm silly because I go to Church when I could be at the beach, juggling on a surf board. *(Mimes the action and wipeout.)* Or I could be blowing up balloons while riding my bicycle. *(Mimes the action and crashing the bicycle.)* Or I could be throwing water on people. Like this! *(Grabs the bucket from under her chair and throws confetti over the audience. You'll need to allow time for the children to settle again. Use your volunteers.)*

Lion Tamer: Every Christian faces persecution some time.

Bubbles: *(Sitting on her chair)* What's pers-pee-cu-tion?

Lion Tamer: Persecution. That's when people are unfriendly or treat you badly because of what you believe. We believe in Jesus!

Bubbles: That's it...I'm being pers-pee-cu-ted! Why are they picking on me?

Lion Tamer: Well, the one you should really blame is the devil.

Bubbles: The devil **is** real, **isn't** he?

Lion Tamer: He sure is. **And he is our enemy**, not the kids who are giving you a hard time at Clown School. I was reading about this in my Bible the other day. The Apostle Peter knew how it felt to be picked on because he believed in Jesus. He was threatened, beaten up and put in prison! But Peter knew the devil was behind it all. Do you know how Peter describes the devil? **It's one of my favourite Scriptures!**

Bubbles: *(Silently and exaggeratedly nods her head up and down as if to say 'yes' but then turns her face in a circular motion - like she is following the hands on a clock going round and round - then shakes her head to say 'no.'*

Lion Tamer: *(Jumping up the Lion Tamer acts out the verse.)*  
'Be well balanced...'

Bubbles: *(Jumping up on her chair and balancing.)* You mean like Pierre the acrobat?

Lion Tamer: Yes! Just like Pierre controls his mind and his body.  
*(Lion Tamer stands up and looks around.)* 'Be vigilant and cautious at all times.'

Bubbles: Like you inside the lion's cage?

Lion Tamer: Exactly like me when I'm in the lion's cage! Watching all the time.  
'For that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring,'

Bubbles: *(Acts like a lion and roars.)*

Lion Tamer: *(Jumps in fright.)*

Bubbles: Like that?

Lion Tamer: Just like that!

Bubbles: You weren't very watchful then, were you?

Lion Tamer: I'll do better from now on.

Bubbles: Good!

Lion Tamer: *(Jumps up onto his chair.)* 'Seeking someone to seize upon and devour.'

Bubbles: *(Jumps from chair and hides behind it.)* The devil is going to eat me?

Lion Tamer: No, you don't need to be afraid of the devil but you do need to be constantly on guard. Because he is dangerous. *(Jumps down from his chair and paces.)* He's always on the prowl, pacing back and forth, back and forth. He's determined. He wants every Christian to give up.

Bubbles: I felt like giving up sometimes.

Lion Tamer: *(Grabs chair and uses it to attack.)* 'Withstand him.'

Bubbles: *(Picks up her chair and copies the Lion Tamer.)* 'Withstand him'...Hey?

Lion Tamer: Resist!

Bubbles: Oh, Resist!

Lion Tamer: 'Be firm in faith.'

Bubbles: 'Be firm in faith.'

Lion Tamer: *(Put chair down and sit on it.)* 'Knowing that the same sufferings are appointed to your brotherhood.'

Bubbles: *(Putting chair down and sitting on it.)* 'Knowing that the same sufferings are appointed to your brotherhood.'

Lion Tamer: In other words, Bubbles, you are not alone. Other Christians are going through the same thing.  
*(Now, the Lion Tamer stands and repeats verse and actions and Bubbles follows.)*  
Be well balanced... *(Feet apart, arms out balancing)*

Bubbles: Be well balanced...

Lion Tamer: Be vigilant and cautious at all times... *(Looking around carefully)*

Bubbles: Be vigilant and cautious at all times...

Lion Tamer: For that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring... *(Lion roaring)*

Bubbles: For that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring...

Lion Tamer: Seeking someone to seize upon and devour.... *(Lion pouncing)*

Bubbles: Seeking someone to seize upon and devour...

Lion Tamer: Withstand him... *(Makes STOP sign with hand)*

Bubbles: Withstand him...

Lion Tamer: Be firm in faith... *(Plant feet apart again and cross arms)*

Bubbles: Be firm in faith...

Lion Tamer: Knowing that the same sufferings are appointed to your brotherhood. *(Arm around Bubble's shoulders)*

Bubbles: Knowing that the same suffering are appointed to your brotherhood. *(Arm around Lion Tamer's shoulders)*

Lion Tamer: You've got it, Bubbles!

Bubbles: You've got it, Bubbles!

Lion Tamer: No, you can stop now...

Bubbles: No, you can stop now...Ha! Ha! Ha!

Lion Tamer: Christians have to stick together. Do you understand? *(Sits down on his chair.)*

Bubbles: *(Sits shoulder to shoulder with the Lion Tamer.)* Yes, I understand. I won't give up being a Christian no matter how much the kids in Clown School pers-pee-cutie me. And the devil will not stop me from going to church, either. Thanks Lion Tamer!

Lion Tamer: You're welcome. Now I have to get ready for this evenings performance. *(He rises, but Bubbles rises too. She is hard pressed up against his shoulder. Everywhere he moves, Bubbles moves too. She is stuck to him!)*  
Hey, what's going on?

Bubbles: You said it yourself...we Christians have to stick together!

*Bubbles and Lion Tamer, still stuck together, circle the chairs a few times (clowning around) and finally exit stage left.*

## Ministry to the Children:

**For the Christian:** Any Christian can tell you about a time they were made fun of and made to feel stupid because of believing in God. Kids who don't know about God, His Son Jesus, the Holy Spirit or the Bible are blind to Christianity. Not blinded in their eyes, but blinded in their minds. They just don't understand. It sounds silly to them and some kids want to keep on sinning. They don't want to change their ways and live for Jesus instead. The devil stops people from seeing. He schemes of ways to destroy them. So when you are teased or hurt, remember, the devil is behind it. The devil is trying to devour you...stop you from being a Christian. Stop you from telling other kids about Jesus. Stop you from hanging out with other Christians at Kid's Church. Withstand him! Stand firm! He cannot eat you! Jesus has overcome him. If you have been hurt. If you have felt like giving up. Today we shut the lion's mouth! Let's pray.

**For the Unsaved:** Maybe you're here today, and you're one of those kid's who's made fun of Christians. You had no idea the devil was using you to make a Christian give up. Jesus, God's Son left heaven to come to earth. Jesus fed hungry people. Jesus healed sick and dying people.

Jesus did nothing wrong. But he was arrested and whipped and beaten. He died on a cross and prayed, 'Father, forgive them, they don't know what they're doing.' God raised His Son Jesus from the dead. Jesus has beaten the devil, death and sin. He will forgive every wrong thing you've ever done. Don't be blind anymore. The Bible tells us Jesus is the light of the world! If you follow Him, become a Christian, you will not walk in the dark but you'll have the light of life living inside of you. (John 8:12) Altar Call.

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 5:8 & 9

Ask the Lion Tamer and Bubbles to come out again and teach the children the Memory Verse used in the skit. Encourage interaction, make it lots of fun, and challenge children to have a go at reciting the verse individually for a fun reward.

Morning Tea:

Popcorn

Craft: Balloon Juggling Balls

Sometimes called 'stress balls', children can make their own juggling balls using balloons, cling film and rice. There are lots of how to clips on You Tube. Each child will need three balls. Then stand back! It's time for some juggling!