



True Treasure Island

3: Swashy in the Wash!

By Deborah Wassenberg

Introduction:

Another lesson featuring two beloved characters—**Salty** and **Swashy**, both deckhands on the fishing trawler 'Wave Walker'. While Salty is a confident follower of Jesus, Swashy struggles with doubt. Children learn that God loves to give us wisdom if only we'd ask for it!

Photo Booth:

Set up a photo booth using props:

- Surfboards or body boards (firmly secured)
- Goggles, sunglasses
- Towels and hats
- Inflatables: beach balls and rings
- Pool toys

Bible Lesson: Trials and Wisdom

Bible Reference: James 1:5-12

Skit:

Setting: On the beach of a tropical island resort where the children are the tourists!

Characters:

Salty: A deckhand on the fishing trawler 'Wave Walker', moored in the marina at True Treasure Island. During the cooler months, when the 'fish aren't on', Salty works as an island tour guide. His deckhand mate, Swashy, assists him.

Swashy: Grapples with doubt, and this leads to his life being in turmoil.

Costumes: Salty is in casual beach attire, while Swashy has been surfing and is wearing a wetsuit (or board shorts and a rashie shirt). A surfboard is still connected to his ankle by the leg rope.

Script:

Salty enters.

Salty: *(Speaks to the tourists, aka the children)*
Hello, and welcome to True Treasure Island!
My name is Salty.
I am your True Treasure Island guide.
My shipmate, Swashy, is here to help me.

Salty points offstage, but no one appears.

Salty: My shipmate, Swashy, is here to help me!

Still, no one appears.

Salty: *(Speaking from the side of his mouth)*
Swashy, come and meet the nice tourists.

Swashy enters, groaning, on his hands and knees. He is wet and dragging his surfboard, which is still attached to his ankle by the leg rope.

Salty: *(Rushing to assist him)*
Swashy!
Are you okay?

Swashy: *(Trying to stand)*
Oh. Whoops.
Salty, I've been in the wash.

Salty: You look like it, Swashy.
What happened?

Swashy: I caught an epic wave, but then I fell off and got ragdolled.
I was completely at the mercy of the wave.
I was thrown around and had zero control of my arms and legs.

Salty: *(To the children)*
Hang on a minute, folks.
The tour will start shortly.
I have to help my mate, here.
(Sits down next to Swashy on the sand)
Why are you so upset, Swashy?
You've had plenty of wipe outs before.

Swashy: Life's been hard, you know?
I've been plunged into problem after problem, and I'm ragdolling on land as well as in the sea.
Some mates are giving me a hard time because I choose to live for Jesus.
They think I'm crazy for going to Church instead of the beach.

Salty: I know what you mean.
You don't always get a smooth ride just because you follow Jesus.
Sometimes, it can even make life harder.
But we have to endure.

Swashy: What does that mean?

Salty: To suffer patiently.
Jesus had to do it.
The disciples in the Bible had to do it.
And every disciple or follower of Jesus since has had to do it, since.
It's not a time to give in.
It's a time for your faith in God to grow stronger.

Swashy: Well, how come I feel so tossed around by everything?
I can't think straight.
I'm tempted to do the things my mates do, even though I know they're wrong.

Salty: God has an answer for that, Swashy.
You have to ask Him for wisdom.
When you're going through a hard time and you want to know what to do, you ask Him for His wisdom, and He will give it to you.

Swashy: You're sure God's not too busy with the universe and everything?
I mean, in the scheme of things, it's just my problems.

Salty: Swashy, God wants you to ask Him and He wants to give you heaps and heaps of wisdom and He's not going to think less of you for asking.
God is generous to us.

Swashy: I don't know, Salty.
I doubt God really thinks I can hold His wisdom in my head.

Salty: Don't doubt, Swashy!
That's what's got you so messed up.
When you doubt that God wants to give you what you've asked for, you're like the waves of the sea, driven by the winds and tossed.
Ragdolling.
The Bible calls it being double-minded.
You know that expression, 'I'm in two minds'?

Swashy: No wonder my head hurts!
What do I do, Salty?

Salty: Well, wisdom won't land on your head like a coconut.
God wants you to ask Him for it.
So, when you're facing persecution, or temptation, or whatever it is,
pray to God and say:
'Father, this is what is happening to me.
I don't know what to do about it.
I need Your wisdom.
I believe in faith that I will receive it because You said I could ask for it
and You love it when I do.'

Swashy: And then I endure, wait it out, like when I'm in the line up?
(Says dreamily)
On my surfboard, out beyond the breaking waves, waiting for the
perfect set to roll in.

Salty: Yeah, and then God promises you will be blessed with a crown
because you endured temptation.
You said, 'No' to the bad things, and 'YES' to God.
You showed that you love Him.

Swashy: *(Swashy excitedly jumps to his feet)*
A crown?
Really?
Me wearing a crown!
Imagine surfing with a crown on my head.
(Acts it out)
I hope it's waterproof.

Salty: *(Patting him on the back)*
Swashy, I think you need to pray as soon as this tour is over!

Ministry to the Children:

God loves to give us wisdom. He's not hiding it from us. He's not making us earn it. He gives us wisdom when we ask, and He gives it generously because we are trusting Him and being humble enough to ask for His help. If you doubt God's goodness, you will feel unstable. Trusting Him is what brings you peace and clarity.

God loves you so much that He wants you to come near to Him, but there is something in the way. Your sin. Everything you have done wrong separates you from God's love. That's why He sent His Son, Jesus to die on the Cross for the sins of everyone. If you believe Jesus took your sin on Himself, and you ask Him for His forgiveness, and turn away from your sin (repent) He will remove your sin and come and live in your heart. You will be able to talk to God because your sin has been 'wiped out!'

Memory Verse: James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Game: Coconut Shy

You Will Need:

- Coconuts (real or weighted replicas)
- Posts/stands (wooden posts or sturdy cones to balance them on)
- Balls (wooden balls are traditional, but you can use beanbags or other safe projectiles)
- Backdrop (a sheet, tarp, or cardboard screen to stop balls from flying too far)
- Words of the Memory Verse on laminated A4 paper (as the prize for knocking a coconut down!)

What to Do:

- Give every child a set number of throws (e.g. three)
- If a child knocks a coconut down, they win a word of the Memory Verse
- When all the words have been won, Salty and Swashy help the children put the verse in the correct order, and everyone recites and learns the Memory Verse together.

Game: Volleyball

The Goal

Two teams hit a ball back and forth over a high net. Your team scores a point when the ball lands on the other team's court or the other team makes a mistake.

The Court & Teams

- Two teams of 6 players on the court at a time
- A net divides the court
- Players rotate clockwise each time their team wins the right to serve

How a Rally Starts

A player serves the ball from behind the back line. The ball must go over the net into the other team's court.

How Many Hits?

Each team gets up to three hits to return the ball:

Pass (usually a forearm bump)

Set (using fingertips to push the ball up)

Spike (a strong downward hit)

A block at the net doesn't count as one of the three hits.

How You Score

Volleyball uses the rally point system:

- Every rally = one point to whichever team wins it.
- First team to 25 points (and ahead by 2) wins the set.

Matches are usually the best of 3 or 5 sets.

Common Mistakes (Faults)

A point goes to the other team if you:

- Hit the ball out
- Let the ball touch the ground on your side
- Hit the ball more than once in a row
- Touch the net
- Carry or throw the ball instead of hitting it

Here's a quick, fun version you can use in Children's Church:

- Use a lower net or even a rope.
- Let kids catch and throw the ball at first to learn positioning.
- Move to bumping and setting once they're confident.
- Keep rallies short and celebrate every success.

Craft: Paper Plate Beach Camper

You will need:

- Large paper plates cut in half
- Felt pens
- Decorative collage items, ribbons, trims and stickers
- Cardboard surfboards (to rest on top of each camper)
- Cardboard wheels (1 x each camper)
- Cardboard windows (1 x porthole shape of each camper)
- Cardboard door (1 x each camper)

What to do:

- The flat of the paper plate semi-circle is the floor of the camper
- The arched top is the roof of the camper
- Add the wheel under the back of the camper
- Add the door towards the front
- Add the window towards the rear
- Add the surfboard on top of the roof
- Decorate the surfboard and camper with the collage items

The camper is ready to be towed to the beach!

