

Who's to Blame?

Cast -2 children – John (has a superhero cape), and Judy (has a wig with pigtails), 1 leader

Props –Table, Large bag of Easter eggs (foil wrapped), empty bag of same sort of Easter eggs + some of the foil wrappers

Leader: [enters holding packet of mini Easter eggs]

Hi everyone, it's nearly Easter so I thought we could all have a treat this morning. I brought this bag of mini Easter eggs and at the end we can all have one. Better hide them though – don't want John or Judy finding them before the end- they are big chocolate fans! [Slips bag under a cloth on table and exits]

John: [calls from distance] 5..4..3..2..1 [Sudden entrance] HEEEEEEEEERE'S JOHNNIEEEEE!!!! [Speaking excitedly] Oh I've just been watching the brilliantest film on TV –there was this man and he had this really cool car right and he was chasing these two baddies and... and...

Judy: [enters and immediately interrupts] Hello John, here have you seen [leader's name]. I thought I heard him in here a few minutes ago talking something about mini Easter eggs.

John: No haven't seen him. Did I tell you about the really cool film I was watching [starts making car noises and zooms up and down past Judy]

Judy: STOP THAT!!! Oh you are such a child! [sticks nose in the air looks superior.] Hey what is that? [feels bump under cloth and moves cloth to reveal bag of Easter eggs] Oooh lovely eggs- yum yum!

John: You can't touch those –they're for everyone – I heard [leader's name] say he was gonna [bring some eggs today as a treat. We have to wait and get one after the meeting.

Judy: Should we open them and have just one?

John: Nope we have to share them.

Judy: Oh well I'm gonna move them – don't want anyone getting to them before the end of the meeting, I'll just take them away and errr keep them errr safe. [disappears with the bag]

John: When I get a car someday, it's gonna be really fast like that one in the film and black with a stripe and a personalised number plate. [mimics an American accent] Johnnie 1 [makes cars noise and suddenly speeds off and disappears]

Munching noises and rattling of paper off stage and Judy's voice saying Yummy..... mmmmmmjust one more etc. If possible the odd foil wrappers could appear [thrown onstage] as if someone is eating the eggs and discarding the wrappers.

Judy: [enters holding empty bag and calling] JOHN JOOOOHN!

John: What?

Judy: Oh John. I've done something bad. Look I've eaten the eggs. [turns bag upside down and a couple of foil wrappers fall out]

John: WHAAATT? You can't have eaten the whole lot.

Judy: [looking miserable] I have! Oh dear, I was just gonna have my one egg a bit early. I thought no-one will mind if I have mine first but then when the bag was opened and I saw all the lovely eggs I thought I could have one more and then just one more and [speaking more quickly] then one more and then one more and

John: Ok, ok, I get the picture! [Starts to laugh] You are in so much trouble!! [speaking gleefully] When [leader's name] sees what you've done he'll... he'll probably ban you from Sunday School for a year and... and then your mum will ground you for 5 years and....and you won't be allowed to go out except to school and you'll have to eat dry bread and water and...

Judy: [wailing hysterically] STOP STOP oh what am I gonna do? Oh no here's [leader's name] now.

Leader: Hey what's all the noise about. Judy you look really upset. What is it?

Judy: [jumping straight in] Oh it's John. I'm afraid he's eaten all the eggs you bought for everyone and I am so annoyed with him. Talk about being selfish.

John: WHAT??? NO it...

Leader [interrupting] JOHN! I am disappointed with you! I know you like chocolate but those eggs were for everyone. I told you that earlier. Look how upset you've made Judy and all the rest of the boys and girls will feel the same.

John: BUT it was HER not ME!

Leader: Now don't make things worse by trying to blame someone else – you can go straight home and I'll be speaking to your mother. Go on off you go!!

John: Is about to speak but then sighs and puts head down and exits.]

Leader: It's ok Judy. I think I'll have time to quickly nip off and get another packet of eggs. Cheer up I won't be long. Oh and I'll make sure you get extra for being so good [exits]

Judy: Oh errr yes bye. [To audience] I think I'm gonna be sick! [Exits quickly]

Follow up the sketch with a discussion about how it feels to be accused in the wrong and what it would be like to have to take the punishment for something you didn't do. Give the children opportunities to tell their own stories.

Tell the children that Jesus chose to take the blame for us and that the punishment He received was much worse than John's ideas for how Judy should be punished. Christ died in our place on the cross. Keep the message short and impactful.