

Scene1 :

Reporter: Welcome, everyone, to the Amazing Grace Race! You can feel the excitement; we are just moments away! Runners, take your place!

Aaaaaaaand they're off! What a great start to a fantastic day!

Song 1: The Race with Fixin' My Eyes on You

Scene 2:

Reporter: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Amazing Grace Race! I don't know if you can see behind me, but a terrific crowd has turned out today to cheer our runners on. I'm reporting live from the starting line. Coach, your runners are off to a great start!

Coach: They sure are! I'm very proud of each and every one of them. Kids, let's take our first official water break.

Reporter: Couch, tell our views, what is this race all about?

Coach: Well, we're running the race of *life*. The trail is full of mountains, valleys, sharp turns and detours-it's all part of the journey. You see, for the runner, it's about perseverance.

Reporter: Is there a secret to running this race?

Coach: Absolutely! The secret is Jesus. We follow Him...in His steps, but in our shoes. Ok team, let's hit the trail again. We've got to stick together; our first big hill is coming up!

Coach: (*music begins to "In His Steps, In My Shoes"*) Remember: in *His* steps...

All: ...in *my* shoes!

Reporter: Aaaaaaaand they're off!

Song 2: In His Steps, In My Shoes

Scene 3:

Reporter: Hey Spud! Why aren't you running?

Spud: My shoes hurt..... they're pinching my toes. And I'm tired!

All: (What? Come on! You've got to be kidding! Etc...)

Spud: I'm bored.. and I quit!

Claire: Hey, we're only two songs into the musical, and you're quitting already?

Jacob: Spud, don't you know? Quitters never win!

All: And winners never quit!

Anthony: Coach, we've got a runner down over here!

Annie: This pilgrim ain't makin' any progress!

Riley: (sigh) It's the old COUCH POTATO problem.

Coach: Oh, yes. I've seen this problem before. It's a serious case of lack of motivation. (*Music begins to Couch Potato*) Spud, put your shoes back on. Followers of Jesus *follow* Him; they don't sit on the sidelines.

### Song 3: Couch Potato

#### Scene 4:

Coach: Okay, runners, let's let Spud catch his breath. In fact... why don't we all take a minute and stretch our legs? (*pats Spud on back*) I'm glad to see you're back in the race, Spud.

Spud: Well I don't know... I'm not very fast.

Coach: *Fast* is not the point. This is the Amazing Grace Race!

Claire: The Bible says God's grace is enough for you, and His power is made perfect in weakness.

Reporter: For our viewers, can you define "grace"?

Bella: I'm loved!

Anthony: And I'm forgiven!

Claire: And God's power is in me!

Reporter: Whoa, that IS amazing!

Anthony: Hey, guys, look ahead! Do you see our next challenge?

Bella: The sign says, "Watch your step! You are headed into....."

ALL: (24) "THE VALLEY OF DESPAIR!"

Oh no!

Spud: Did you hear that?! I'M not going all the way down there. Not in *these* shoes...it's too deep. No way!

Coach: It's all part of the journey, Spud. Now, listen up everybody. I know we can make it through this if we'll work together as a team. And there's no "I" in team! It's all about helping one another run the best race we can... even in the valleys.

Bella: How can I help someone get through a valley?

Claire: It's called L.O.V.E.: Love!

Coach: Exactly. We run to show God's amazing grace to one another and His awesome love.

Coach: Come on, Spud. (*music begins to "L.O.V.E. Love!"*) On your mark, get set, go!

Song 4: "L.O.V.E. Love!"

Scene 5:

Bella: The race is getting harder and harder!

Reporter: Ladies and gentlemen, the runners are approaching muddy waters, also known as "Badlands Bog!" (33)

Reporter: And the sign says, "Runners beware!"

Jacob: Badlands Bog? (34)

Kid 1: What was *that*?

Kid 2: French horns, I think.

Spud: I vote we turn around and go back. Who's with me?

Coach: Nonsense, Spud. You can't stop every time life gets a little rough. Roll up your pant legs. We're going in.

Claire: Ewwwwwwww! This is so gross!

Bella: My new shoes are getting dirty!

*(Annie falls)*

Annie: *(she screams)* Riley, help me! Give me your hand.

*(Riley helps and is pulled in)*

Riley: *(she screams)* Aaaah! You pulled me in! On purpose!

Annie: I did not!

Riley: Did, too!

Coach: What's going on?

Riley: She pulled me into the mud!

Annie: Not true! I did not!

Coach: *(helps the girls up)* Girls... it was just an accident, I'm sure. Sometimes things happen. Now, shake hands and let's keep going.

*(music to "A Better Way")*

Riley: No!

Annie: No way!

Coach: Well, you're both stuck in the muck until you do!

## Song 5: A Better Way

### Scene 6:

Coach: Okay, guys, on the count of three say, "I'm sorry." One, two, three... (42)

Reporter: Awkward pause

All: *(all but Annie and Riley)* We're waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaiting.....

Annie and Riley: I'm sorry *(Kids cheer)*

Reporter: Forgiveness seems to have occurred. (43)

Claire: Oh, no, it's beginning to rain *(kids moan)*

Riley: I'm getting wet! I can't run in this.

Anthony: Oh, no!

Spud: You mean, oh , yes! Finally, we can stop! I'm getting blisters. And there's no way I'm running in *this* mess.

Bella: Does this mean the race is cancelled?

Annie: We can't keep going!

Reporter: Ladies and gentlemen, the rain is coming down quite heavily now. There is talk that the race will be cancelled any minute. Coach, does this officially mean the "Amazing Grace Race" is over?

Coach: No sir! This rain is just a small setback. And true heroes never let setbacks stop them. No! By faith, heroes keep going... because they want to finish well.

Anthony: I want to be a hero.

*(Music begins to "Heroes of Faith")*

Coach: Well, the let's all keep going. Onward and upward!

All: Hooray!

#### Song 6: Find Us Faithful

#### Scene 7:

Reporter: Ladies and gentlemen, our runners have had a strenuous run so far, so I believe they'll be taking a short stop at the "Renew Station" to catch their breath and to dry off a bit.

Jacob: Coach, where's Spud? He's not with us.

Coach: I think he's just a little slow in this wet weather. I have faith in him.

Riley: Well, the team needs him. We have to finish together!

Anthony: He better get here soon!

Reporter: As you can see, the rain has finally lifted and the sun has started to peek through the clouds. Once again it's turning out to be a be-yoo-ti-ful day, and... oh, look! A magnificent rainbow has appeared right in front of us!

Claire: Wow! Everyone, look at that awesome rainbow!

Bella: I like rainbows. Do you think maybe that rainbow could be like a “sign” from God? You know, to encourage us?

Coach: Yes, I do, Bella. God gives us all kinds of signs every day to show us His love. We just have to ask Him to open the eyes of our hearts to see them. But it does make you wonder... *(trailing off)*

Anthony: Wonder what?

Coach: Well, it makes me wonder...about runners who are coming along behind us.

Claire: What kind of “signs” are we leaving for them?

Coach: That’s a great question... especially if you’re really trying to follow Jesus... in your shoes.

Riley: Well, back and Badlands Bog, I hope Annie and I left a sign that said, “Be quick to forgive...”

Annie: “... it’s a much better way!” *(girls giggle and slap high-fives)*

Coach: Yes, you girls could definitely say that.

Bella: When we left the Valley of Despair I think Clair left a sign that said, “It’s all about L.O.V.E. Love!” ... because that’s the only thing that can really help someone go through those rough valleys in life.

Coach: Exactly. We’ve made some significant progress out here today, *(music begins to “Find Us Faithful”)* and I do believe you’re leaving some encouraging signs for the runners coming along behind us. Let’s go! We’re coming up on the last leg of this race.

#### Song 7: Find Us Faithful

#### Scene 8:

Jacob: Hey, look, everybody! Look who finally caught up with us!

ALL: Spud!

Coach: I knew the team could count on you, Spud.

Riley: Yea, I knew you wouldn’t let us down.

Spud: Well ... it’s not like that. I really did quit.

ALL: (What? Quit? Really? Etc...)

Spud: The truth is I had my running shoes off and I was walking back and, well.. I heard the message in your song and I started to have second thoughts. I really don't want to be remembered as a quitter. God wouldn't want me to let my team down.

Coach: Spud, I told you I always had faith in you.

Annie: We're just glad you're back!

Coach: Yes, we are. And in fact, you're just in time for the final stretch of this race. Spud, will you start us out and lead this team on to victory?

ALL: YEAH!

Spud: It would be an honor! Let's go! (All clab with excitement, "yeah, let's go! Whoo hoo!")

Reporter: I'm happy to report to our listeners that Spud (*Music begins to "Runner with The Race"*) is back in the race and Coast has in fact asked him to take the lead. In just a few moments, I believe we are gonna see this team cross that finish line together!

## Song 8: Runner with The Race

### Scene 9

Riley: We did it!

Claire: Together!

Jacob: That was awesome! I knew we could make it.

Coach: Listen! Do you hear it?

Bella: Hear what?

Coach: There's a crown of witnesses cheering for you! And I can hear the Lord saying, "Well done."

Annie: Yes, and we did it with Spud leading the way.

Coach: That's right. Spud, you and your teammates were faithful to the end. And I have something for you! (*pulls out tennis shoes for Spud*)

Spud: Wow! A new pair of running shoes! Hey everybody look at these!

Reporter: You know after covering this race here today, I think I may need a pair of running shoes, too!

Spud: Well, you'd better be careful what you pray for! (*Hands the Reporter the shoes as music begins to L-O-V-E, LOVE Reprise*)

Reporter: You're giving me your shoes?

Spud: That's right! I call them "Shoes of Victory!"

Reporter: Gotcha! And to be victorious, I must run in *His* steps...

All: but in *my* shoes! (kids cheer!)