

(Table is set.) Mother is bringing food. Brad is standing nearby.

M: Brad, call everyone for dinner.

B: *(shout)* Time to eat!

M: Brad, if I had wanted to do it that way I would have done it myself. Please go and let everyone know we're eating.

(Brad pouts and goes to find everyone. He returns followed by the rest of the family.)

R: Roast beef! I can hardly wait.

K: And mashed potatoes and gravy!

F: *(speaking to Mother):* Carrie, it looks like you fixed the right meal tonight. *(jokingly)* Even Brad is not complaining. *(pats Brad on the back)*

M: Let's pray.

ALL: Come Lord Jesus be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed. Amen.

F: *(to mother):* Bill at the office showed me a flyer about "Turn off TV week" Maybe we should give it a try.

R: Turn off TV week? Sound like a great idea for you and Mom – even Katie and Brad could join in but count me out!

K: I'm with Ryan – I'd be out of it if I did not see what everyone else is watching. You turn off your TV – I'll leave mine on!

M: I am sure that this program is not for parents but for the whole family.

R: But it is some parent who thought it up. Why would you want to turn off TV anyway.

F: Think of all the things we could do with the time. Someone could even play some ping pong with me.

K: Yeah, Ryan – you play ping pong and I'll watch TV.

F: Well, it was worth a try.
(*a pause in the conversation.*)

M: Brad, are you all right. You've not said a word and you've hardly touched your food.

B: I'm not feeling too good. I don't think I'll feel well enough to go to school tomorrow.

M: You don't think you'll feel well enough to go to school tomorrow?

(*Brad shrugs his shoulders.*)

R: Hey, I don't think I'll feel well enough to go to school tomorrow either. I could use a day off from school.

M: (*scolding*) Ryan.

F: Is something bothering you, Brad? Something going on at school?

B: No.

F: Brad, what's the matter?

B: Really nothing.

F: Brad.

B: *(sighs)*: In class today Billy Broomfield was cheating on the test and I told Mrs. Warner. Boy, did she yell at him, tore up his paper, gave him a zero. Now no one will talk to me. And Billy says he will beat me up if he can catch me alone on my way to school.

R: If he does I'll beat the tar out of that little twerp.

M: I'll talk to your principal. They can't treat you like this.

K: No, Mom, if you do that it will even be worse for Brad. Let him handle it.

(Family freezes in position.)

N: It looks like Brad is in a really tough spot. Ryan would like to protect him, Mom, too, in her own way. It reminds me of a tough spot Jesus was in. Let's look in on Jesus and his disciples where we left them last week.

(Jesus and his disciples are gathered at the table in the upper room.)

J: Do you remember when I sent you out to declare, "The kingdom of God is near" and to heal the sick? Then I sent you without a wallet or bag or sandals. God provided everything. What more did you need?

D#6: Nothing.

J: Well, now if you have a wallet or travel bag, take them along. If you don't have a sword, sell your coat and buy one. Remember how it says in Isaiah 53: "He was counted with criminals"? That scripture must come true in me. Everything written about me will come true.

D#6: I've got a sword.

D#1: I've got one too.

J: That will be enough. Let's go to the Mount of Olives.

(Jesus and disciples set off for the Mount of Olives.)

D#5: Something strange is going on tonight.

D#7: Yeah, what is all this talk about swords. It is almost like Jesus thinks a battle is coming.

D#8: Maybe tonight it will be like when David met Goliath. Maybe two swords will be all God needs to defeat the Roman army. We'll be David, a boy with a slingshot. The Roman army will be Goliath, a giant with great armor.

D#9: Two swords. I can see it now. God will send millions of angels and cut down those Roman armies.

D#11: A thousand soldiers don't stand a chance against God's army.

D#10: And didn't Jesus say we were going out to the Mt. of Olives.

D#9: Yes, but we always go there. Jesus likes to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane.

D#10: But now I think I understand why. Remember what Zechariah said?

D#7: "Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations as he does when he fights a battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, just east of Jerusalem."

D#5: Zechariah was telling about the last great battle in history. Do you think it's about to happen?

D#3: And we are going to do the fighting for the Lord?

D#1: My sword, the Lord's weapon.

(Disciples and Jesus arrive at the Mount of Olives.)

J: Pray that you will not be tempted.

D#4: I'm ready, Lord.

D#5: I'll be with you, Lord.

(Jesus moves a little way from the disciples, kneels, prays)

J: Father, if it is your will, take this cup away from me, the cup of suffering and death. But whatever is to be, let it be your will, Father. I want to do your will.

(Jesus returns to find the disciples asleep.)

J: *(with sadness in his voice):* Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you will not be tempted.

(Judas arrives with a few soldiers. He comes close to Jesus to kiss him.)

Jesus: Judas, do you intend to betray the Son of Man with a kiss?

D#1: Lord, should we use our swords to fight?

D#8: Lord, is this the moment?

(D#1 strikes chief priest's slave and cuts off his ear.)

J: Stop. That's enough of this.

(Jesus touches the injured man's ear and heals him.)

D#2: Where are the angels?

D#3: What happened to our victory?

D#11: Is that it?

(Soldiers grasp Jesus – disciples all sneak away.)

J: Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a criminal. I was with you every day at the temple and you did not try to arrest me then. But this is your time, when darkness rules.

D#4: Now I'm really confused. Where was God when we needed God. They've got Jesus.

D#5: I thought God would save Jesus. Now everything is lost.

N: That must have been a confusing night for the disciples. I'll bet they were just like our modern family, not sure what to do when Jesus did not want them to keep on fighting. How can you stop violence without clubs and swords? Maybe you can't. Well let's return to see what our family will do.

M: Brad, I don't want you to be hurt. And I don't want to do anything that will cause everyone to turn against you. And I certainly don't want Ryan to beat up Billy Broomfield.

B: Mom, I'm going to call my friends tonight. I'm going to ask them to walk with me. I know they are tempted to just go along with the crowd, but I think if I ask them they will be with me.

K: I don't think Billy will do anything if someone is with you.

M: And I'd like us to pray for Billy and Brad and the whole class. I'll begin.

M: Dear Jesus, thank you for your love for us and promise to always be with us. Help Brad tomorrow. Keep him safe and guide his classmates to support him.

R: Thank you for the good roast beef we had for supper and let us have a good meal tomorrow also.

K: Help Billy to change and not to want to get even with Brad. Help everyone to get along.

F: We thank you, God, for the wonderful world you give to us. Help us to enjoy one another and keep us from wasting all our time with TV. And keep Brad safe.

B: And thank you for my family, God.

All: Amen.