Here I Am. Send Me

**Scene 1 - At church**

*Several children are gathered*

Alex: Hey guys, Easter is coming up soon! I can’t *wait* for a few days off from school!

Eric: Me too! Especially after all those tests we have to take this time of year. I think I have taken enough tests the last couple of months to last me the rest of my life!

Charlie: Yeah, really! What is up with all of that?

Domingo: I don’t know. But I do know that my favorite part of Spring is here!

Bobby: What is that, Domingo?

Domingo: Resurrection Day!

Bobby: Wait, wait, wait! What is this Resurrection Day you are talking about? I don’t have that on my calendar. Do we get out of school for that? Oh, and just what is a resurrection?

Alex: Bobby, he is talking about Easter. We sometimes call it Resurrection Day because that is the day that Jesus rose from the grave.

Bobby: Wow! Like a zombie or something?

Eric: No, Bobby. The Bible tells us that Jesus died on the cross and was laid in a borrowed grave. But on the third day, God raised Him from the dead. That is what makes Him our Savior!

Bobby: Wow! That is *amazing!* I’ve heard the pastor talk about that in church, but I never really understood what he was talking about.

Alex: You remember that Bible verse we talk about in Sunday School a lot? **John 3:16**. It says *“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.”*

Bobby: Wow, it is hard for me to imagine that God loves us!

Domingo: I know. So many people think that God is mad at us, or that He doesn’t want us to have any fun.

Alex: Yeah, I remember when I first trusted Jesus as my savior, knowing His love was so hard for me to understand.

Eric: Me too. I love reading the Bible verses that tell us about how much God loves me.

Charlie: I know one of my favorite verses is 1 John 3:1. It says *“See how very much our heavenly Father loves us, for he allows us to be called his children—think of it—and we really are!”*

*Pastors Palmer comes in*

Pastor Palmer: Hey guys! That is a great verse, Charlie. It tells us how much God loves us!

Eric: Hey, Pastor Palmer! We were just talking about Easter.

Domingo: I am looking forward to our North American Mission Study this year! I really enjoy hearing how Southern Baptists are sharing Jesus in the United States and Canada!

Alex: Me too! What are we going to be studying this year?

Pastor Palmer: That’s a great question, Alex. Our main theme is Here I Am. Send Me. We are going to learn how God uses our talents and interests to tell other people about Jesus.

Bobby: That sounds really interesting, Pastor Palmer. We are some *pretty* talented guys! Just imagine what God can do through us!

Pastor Palmer: Yes, Bobby; just *imagine*! Let’s go into our classroom and I will introduce you to our topics!

*Pastor Palmer and the puppets leave the stage*

**Scene 2 – Just after the meeting in Scene 1**

Pastor Palmer: Guys, I think we have a *great* North American Mission Study this year!

Bobby: Pastor Palmer, you were talking about our talents a minute ago. I have a really *awesome* talent!

Pastor Palmer: What’s that, Bobby?

Bobby: I can touch my nose with my big toe!

Charlie: *{looking at Bobby in horror}* EWW!

Bobby: Wanna see? {*Bobby starts raising his leg}*

Alex: No! No! We’re good!

Charlie: That gives a *whole* new meaning to toe jam!

Pastor Palmer: Bobby, you *always* make things interesting!

Domingo: Pastor Palmer, what are we studying this year?

Pastor Palmer: Thanks for asking, Domingo. We are looking at the call of Isaiah.

Eric: Hey, I remember him. Wasn’t he a prophet in the Old Testament or something?

Pastor Palmer: That’s right Eric. God used him in a mighty way to deliver an important message to His people.

Alex: Wasn’t that when Isaiah heard God ask “Who shall I send?”

Charlie: And Isaiah was scared because he knew he was a sinful man?

Pastor Palmer: Exactly. But do you know how that relates to North American missions?

Alex: Was it because he was a prophet?

Pastor Palmer: That is certainly part of it. But Isaiah did not feel like he could do what God called him to do.

Eric: I feel like that *a lot* Pastor Palmer.

Pastor Palmer: You know what, Eric? We *all* do, even grown-ups! So often we just don’t feel like we can do what God wants us to do.

Eric: So, what do we do, Pastor Palmer?

Pastor Palmer: Well, we do what Isaiah did. He listened to God. God called out to him and Isaiah listened to God. But more importantly, he said he would *go* wherever God wanted him to go.

Domingo: Wasn’t he scared? I think that would scare me . . . to hear God calling out my name!

Greg: I would be scared to see what the Bible says Isaiah saw!

Pastor Palmer: He *was* scared. In fact, the Bible tells us that Isaiah was scared, because he was ashamed of the sin in his life. But God said He wanted Isaiah to deliver His message to His people.

Eric: Wow! That is pretty incredible!

Domingo: You better believe it! But, I am still confused what that has to do with North American Missions.

Pastor Palmer: Isaiah was a man who was first called and then sent. He embraced his mission wholeheartedly, even though, he knew the message would not be popular. God is sending us. Unlike Isaiah’s message of judgment, we get to deliver the message of grace.

Charlie: That’s pretty awesome!

Pastor Palmer: That’s right. Our message is that through Jesus, forgiveness is available and eternal life in heaven is a reality. We should all be excited and willing to take this good news to everyone we meet.

Bobby: I love good news! Like, school is closed!

Pastor Palmer: Well, that is good news, Bobby. But the good news we share is *so* much better!

Charlie: Well, if the news is so good, it should be pretty easy to tell people about Jesus.

Pastor Palmer: Unfortunately, it isn’t Charlie. But we can’t just stand on the sidelines assuming that right will win.

Domingo: So, how can we help? We’re just kids!

Pastor Palmer: Great question, Domingo. The North American Mission Board wants to send Christians from all walks of life to shine the light of truth in our world. That’s where we come in. We are going to learn about some people that minister right here in the United States. We are going to learn that God issues the challenge to each of us, “Whom should I send? Who will go for Us?” We should answer, without hesitation, “Here I am. Send me.”

Eric: That reminds me of what was on the back of our bulletin a couple of weeks ago. It was about a man in San Diego who ministers to people in the city there.

Pastor Palmer: That’s right, Eric. That bulletin told us about Manny Sanchez and his family. We learned that when Manny was 16 he attended a Sunday morning session at a convention his family had dragged him to. He learned that life could be about more than making money. He gave his heart to Jesus and said: “I was the first in my family to get saved.”

 Manny’s salvation left him feeling all alone. He had no Christian orientation and didn’t know what to do next. After college, he spent several years as a youth pastor at several churches before joining the staff at Shadow Mountain Community Church, pastored by David Jeremiah. With his wife, their four children and a core group from Shadow Mountain, Manny turned his attention to planting Catalyst Church in downtown San Diego–a place that has seen an estimated 10 church plants start and fail in the last five years. Eventually, Manny wants Catalyst Church to have a storefront presence that is at the hub of downtown and constantly interacting with the city. He also wants to reproduce and develop a “well-oiled church-apprenticeship program.”

Alex: Wow! I feel so bad for Manny. We have so many people around us that really want to help us know Jesus better, but he didn’t have anyone!

Charlie: Pastor Palmer, is it like that all over the country, or was happened to Pastor Manny something that just happened to him?

Pastor Palmer: Great question, Charlie. Dr. Fred Luter, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention said: inner cities are being affected; urban areas are being affected. People are lost, they are dying, and they have no direction. And as a result of that, there’s just a need for us as the body of Christ, and particularly, for churches, to invest in Annie Armstrong Easter Offering so we can do all we can to reach the lost. I read something that over 75% of people in America are lost. That’s a lot of lost folk. And it’s our responsibility as the body of Christ to do all we can to reach them. And one way we can do it is through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Bobby: Pastor Palmer, I understand what you are saying. I mean, I understand the words, but we were talking before you came in about how hard it is to *really* understand what God is saying to us and what God wants us to do.

Pastor Palmer: You are so right, Bobby. Here is what I believe God wants all of us to know: Just like God called Isaiah to minister to his own people in his own land, He wants each of us to minister to people all around us and tell them about Jesus.

Charlie: How can we do that?

Domingo: One of the things we can do is to invite our friends to church.

Eric: That’s right, Domingo. Think what our church would be like if all of us invited just one person to church and they came and sat with us!

Alex: That would be awesome, guys! I have *lots* of friends I could invite to church.

Bobbie: We could also give to our Annie Armstrong Easter Offering! Think how many churches our missionaries could plant if we all chipped in!

Charlie: We could pray for all of the church planters that are trying to tell people about Jesus!

Pastor Palmer: Those are all great ideas, guys. But there are some people who feel like they can’t do any of those things. That reminds me of a story I once heard. A man applied for a job as a handyman. The foreman asked, “Can you do carpentry?” The man said “no.” “How about bricklaying?” Again the man answered, “No.” The foreman asked, “Well, what about electrical work?” The man said, “No, I don’t know anything about that either.” Finally, the foreman said, “Well, then tell me what is handy about you.” The man replied, “I live just around the corner.”

 Sometimes the greatest ability we can have is being available. Little is much when placed in God’s hands, and, God can use us best when we feel weak and unqualified—we just need to be available. Isaiah was just like us!

Domingo: But, Pastor Palmer, it seems so hard in the world we live in.

Pastor Palmer: You’re right, Domingo. But, we need to remember what we have learned from Isaiah. When God asked him to rise to the occasion, instead of asking, “Who, me?” he answered “Here I am. Send me.”

 Do you all sometimes feel not prepared to do anything for God?

All: Yes!

Pastor Palmer: Listen guys, try to remember this: God uses what you have to fill a need that you never could have filled. God uses where you are to take you where you never could have gone. God uses what you ***can*** do to accomplish what you never could have done. God uses who you are to let you become who you never could have been.

 This week, will you all look for ways that God wants to use you to change our community? Will you *all* answer: “Here I Am, Send Me?”

All: We will!

Bobby: You all know I like to goof around, but this is *really* important! How will *YOU* answer “Here I Am, Send Me?” It is ***REALLY*** important! I will be praying for you! See you next time!

Setting/Characters/Props

**Setting**

Modern times

Two scenes

**Characters 6 Speaking Parts**

Alex:

Bobby:

Charlie:

Domingo:

Eric:

Pastor Palmer:

**Props**

None