

# Mothers & Sons

CHARACTERS: 6, 5 adult women, 1 female child

Hostess Mary - mother of John Mark, hosting the prayer session

Rhoda - a young inquisitive Gentile serving girl about 7 or 8 years old

Salome - One of the supporters of Jesus, mother of James and John

Joanna - Wife of Cuza, supporter of Jesus

Mary Magdela - somewhat disheveled appearance, striking hair

Mother Mary - the mother of Jesus, older, serene

PROPS: Pots, jars, baskets, some loaves of baked bread, a kneading trough and dough, cheese, other kitchen implements, towels

SETTING: The kitchen of a first century Jewish home, during the night described in Acts 12. Two stools, a table and a bench

RUN TIME: 8 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Acts 12 with references to the Gospels and Acts 1-12.

HOSTESS MARY: *(Patiently trying to explain to a wiggly, impatient Rhoda)* Rhoda. I will need a lot of help tonight. There will be at least 50 people, maybe 100. I don't know. But there will be much to do. There will not be time for playing or jokes. Now, hand me the oil then bring me some water in the red clay jar. *(During this exchange HOSTESS MARY is making bread and other kitchen related tasks and Rhoda is assisting when she is not asking questions)*

RHODA: Why are so many people coming here? Is this another feast? You Jews have a lot of feasts.

HOSTESS MARY: Our dear brother Peter has been thrown in prison by Herod.

RHODA: You have a brother named Peter?

HOSTESS MARY: He's a Christian brother. We are going to pray for his release

RHODA: Why aren't you going to your temple to pray and sacrifice? In Egypt we would go to the temple of Isis and pray to her because she is the protector goddess of women. She might listen if we sacrificed enough.

HOSTESS MARY: Jesus taught us that true worship is about the Spirit and truth, not the place.

RHODA: Is it true that John Mark angered your High Priest? Will the priest make trouble for him? Why doesn't John Mark just take a sacrifice and say he's sorry?

HOSTESS MARY: Because he is not sorry. The priests and teachers of the law are wrong. They never should have stoned Stephen. John Mark seems to think it is his place to rebuke them. *(a bit unsure of what she is saying)* I don't know if it was a wise thing to do or not. As a mother I think it was exceedingly foolish. *(Confidently)* But as a Christian I know it was the right thing to do. But that is not for me to decide right now. Right now we have bread to make and fish to grill and many other tasks to be hospitable. I hear our first guests arriving.

SALOME: *(Enters while removing hood from her head.)* Shalom. I have come to join in the prayers for Peter.

© 2014 Kathy Applebee May be used freely to teach, preach and glorify God.

More royalty free Christian Drama skits can be found at my Fools for Christ website at [foolsforchrist.net](http://foolsforchrist.net). Find interactive Bible games at <http://guest.portaportal.com/applebeebible>

I thought you might need some help in the kitchen.

HOSTESS MARY: I would be glad for your help. I have 5 loaves of bread rising but I think we'll need more. The flour is in the jar. There is water in this jar (*indicating with a tilt of her head*).

SALOME: (*concerned, dropping her voice*) It is well we meet here and not at the temple courts.

RHODA: Why?

HOSTESS MARY: The Jewish leaders might make trouble. The Romans might make trouble. Or Herod might have more Christians arrested and killed. Rhoda, go make sure there is water enough for washing any arrival's feet and watering a donkeys.

RHODA: Wash, wash, wash. You Jews wash everything all the time. (Exits)

HOSTESS MARY: Salome, I am so sorry about your son, James.

SALOME: (*Who has jumped right in to the food preparation*) Thank God it was quick. (*Quieter*) I pray Peter does not die, but if he must die let it be quickly like James, a beheading not a crucifixion. I don't think I could ever bear to watch another one of those.

HOSTESS MARY: (*Strong, matter of fact*) We are all praying that Peter will be released. God did it before when Peter and your son John were arrested together. After they healed that crippled man.

RHODA: (*Entering loudly*) Eight more people have arrived. One of them brought a donkey.

HOSTESS MARY: (*pointing off stage*) Feet and donkey. (*RHODA exits*)

SALOME: (*Regaining her composure and wanting to change the subject*) She's a Gentile isn't she?

HOSTESS MARY: Yes, Egyptian. I think she had some idea of Jewish customs but The Way has been a shock to her. Living with us has been ... confusing to say the least.

SALOME: How long has she been here?

HOSTESS MARY: A few weeks. Rather unplanned too. John Mark was passing by a slave auction when he heard her screams. Her family had run up debts they could not pay. They were sold into slavery. Her father and two brothers had already been sold. The mother was being taken away by her new owners and Rhoda was objecting. Loudly. And violently

SALOME: I don't imagine that went over well

HOSTESS MARY: (*becoming more serious*) No. They started beating her. John Mark stepped in. He told them damaged property would bring them less money and offered 5 pieces of silver for her. They agreed almost too swiftly. (*With a soft chuckle*) He joked later that he probably could have been paid by them to take her away.

SALOME: She seems to have adjusted to her new life.

HOSTESS MARY: *(With a smile)* Yes and the scratches on John Mark have faded away.

MOTHER MARY: *(Entering and pulling the hood from her head)* Shalom.

HOSTESS MARY: *(Greeting her with a hug, followed by SALOME hugging her)* Shalom. I was hoping you would come.

SALOME: *(With concern)* But it's so late. It's dangerous after dark for a woman to walk alone in the streets.

MOTHER MARY: I wasn't alone. I came with Salome and John. He has become another son to me. He's seen Peter. Herod has him under heavy guard. Four squads of four soldiers each. John had no chance to speak to him. How can I help?

HOSTESS MARY: Sit and rest a while first. Then I suppose we'll need more bread. And these fish need to go out to the courtyard to be grilled.

SALOME: I can do that. I saw the fire in the courtyard on my way in. *(She takes the fish and a long fork and exits)*

HOSTESS MARY: I can't believe how hard this must be for her... James being beheaded. Her other son arrested.

MOTHER MARY: Yes. She grieves. She is having difficulty accepting the fact that God allowed her son James to die. She asks why he was not freed by an angel like John and Peter when the Sanhedrin had them jailed. Why not just a flogging?

HOSTESS MARY: Do you think she has accepted that this will not be an earthly kingdom? That John will not become a ruler? Being a mother is not easy in these times. *(glances at Mary and obviously stiffens as she realizes what she has said to whom)*

MOTHER MARY: It's alright. I knew and accepted my son Jesus' death long before it happened. It didn't make it any easier to watch. But I was somewhat prepared. Salome was not.

HOSTESS MARY: I can personally understand that. John Mark has been drawing attention to himself lately. I worry. As a Christian I know I must accept God's will. But it is hard to understand why he protects some and not the others. Isn't there another way? Besides, the Lord said whatever we asked for in prayer would be granted. We prayed for James. Do you think it was because we did not believe?

MOTHER MARY: His ways are higher than ours. He is beyond understanding. Remember Jesus said "blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Trials will come and some will fall away like seed scattered on rocks.

HOSTESS MARY: Perhaps. It is so hard to know. What is a trial? What is a test? What is God's will?

RHODA: *(entering)* Salome said to tell you the fish are on. Can I tend them?

HOSTESS MARY: Yes, but be careful. Don't burn yourself.

RHODA: I'll be careful. (*exits*)

MOTHER MARY: John Mark is becoming a fine young man. You must be proud of him.

HOSTESS MARY: (*Strained and worried*) I fear for him. He speaks out. (*Salome re-enters*) He has upset many of the Jewish leaders. Not just what he says, although teaching the resurrection is inflammatory enough. They think him disrespectful because of his age.

MOTHER MARY: If he's young and rash he will outgrow it. If he speaks by the power of God, then he must speak no matter how young he is. Jesus was only twelve when he began challenging the elders.

HOSTESS MARY: (*To Mary mother of Jesus*) Yes, but your son was the son of God.

MOTHER MARY: Every believer is a child of God.

RHODA: (*Bursting in*). I need more towels.

HOSTESS MARY: Did you leave the fish to burn?

RHODA: No. Some woman is tending them. She told me to get more towels for washing their feet. I must have washed ten thousand feet already and they just keep coming. I hate washing feet. They're dirty. They stink. (*SALOME enters*)

HOSTESS MARY: (*Reprimanding*) It's the job that falls to the youngest servant.

RHODA: But I hate it. Can't someone else at least help me?

MOTHER MARY: Yes. I'll go help you. (*Reaches a hand to Rhoda*)

HOSTESS MARY: No, Mary. Not you. You're an honored guest. The mother of our Lord.

MOTHER MARY: I insist. My son washed feet, even the feet of the one who betrayed him. Furthermore we are taught that the greatest shall be the least and the servant of all. *(takes Rhoda's hand and they exit)*

SALOME: She is an amazing woman. I can see why God chose her to mother his son.

HOSTESS MARY: Yes, it would take a remarkable woman.

*(MARY MAGDELA enters carrying a covered basket)*

MARY MAGDELA: *(With a touch of drama)* Greetings. A blessing upon this house. *(Removes her head covering which has hidden her face)*

SALOME: Mary! *(They hug, turning to HOSTESS MARY)* This is Mary Magdela.

HOSTESS MARY: *(Taken aback, a bit fearful)* Yes. Of course. *(Not going to greet her)* The one .... I have heard of you but we have never met. *(finally stepping forward gingerly to take the basket MAGDELA proffers)* Greetings in the name of our Lord. *(Steps back quickly)*

MARY MAGDELA: Can I help? *(Picks up a knife, thumps it into some cheese, staring at HOSTESS MARY who draws back obviously frightened. SALOME stifles a giggle)*

SALOME: Mary, it's alright. She won't hurt you or anything. *(To MARY MAGDELA)* I think Mary has heard about the seven demons *(HOSTESS MARY recovers)*

HOSTESS MARY: *(Chagrined)* I am sorry. Please forgive me. I know Jesus cast them out. I just...

MARY MAGDELA: *(Laughing)* There is nothing to forgive. I have suffered far worse from others. And sometimes it suits me to be given wide berth. Especially with the Romans and Herod's soldiers and even our own priests ready to persecute those of us who follow the Way. *(JOANNA enters)*

HOSTESS MARY: Welcome. This is Joanna. Her husband Cuza manages Herod's household. *(Women greet each other)*

MARY MAGDELA: *(Adamantly with obvious disgust)* Herod. That fox.

JOANNA: He is exactly that. *(nodding, turning to MARY MAGDELA)* I recognize you, now. You were at the crucifixion and at the tomb.

MARY MAGDELA: I was the one who stayed behind and thought Jesus a gardener. I begged him to tell me

© 2014 Kathy Applebee May be used freely to teach, preach and glorify God.

More royalty free Christian Drama skits can be found at my Fools for Christ website at [foolsforchrist.net](http://foolsforchrist.net). Find interactive Bible games at <http://guest.portaportal.com/applebeebible>

where the body was. (*shaking her head at her own stupidity*) After all the times I listened to Jesus speak, all the times I watched him heal and cast out demons, I still had no clue. Then suddenly Jesus himself was there.

SALOME: But when you returned to us the men said you were talking nonsense. Peter and John finally decided to see for themselves but the rest wrote you off as a hysterical female. (*MOTHER MARY re-enters*)

MARY MAGDELA: (*chuckling*) Maybe they thought the demons had come back. (*getting serious for once and turning to MOTHER MARY*) Mary, You didn't go to the tomb that morning. I always wanted to ask you about that. Why did you stay behind?

MOTHER MARY: Because I knew Jesus wouldn't be there.

HOSTESS MARY: How could you know that? You watched him die with your own eyes....

MOTHER MARY: Yes I watched, not just on Calvary, but all 33 years of his life. I knew before he performed his first miracle that he could and would.

MARY MAGDELA: (*quietly amazed*) That's right. You coaxed him into turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana.

MOTHER MARY: I knew he would rise again. That was the only thing that kept me from a total breakdown. But even knowing he would rise, it was terrible. (*MOTHER MARY falls silent, SALOME embraces her, MARY MAGDELA places a hand on her shoulder*)

HOSTESS MARY: Sons are a joy to a mother. But they are also the needle that pierces our hearts.

MOTHER MARY: Sometimes it is a sword - Simeon prophesied that a sword would pierce my heart and he was right.

RHODA: (*bursting in*) Someone else is here. A man and his sisters. They came all the way from Bethany! They brought all kinds of food too. A donkey load! They must be rich!

HOSTESS MARY: That would be Lazarus, Mary and Martha.

RHODA: Another Mary! I don't think I can keep a 4<sup>th</sup> Mary straight.

MARY MAGDELA: You won't have to. Mary won't be in to help. She'll be praying with the others. But we can count on Martha's help. (*Chuckling*) She truly has a servant's heart but I suggest we all get busy or she'll assign us things to do. (*To HOSTESS MARY*) She tends to take charge.

© 2014 Kathy Applebee May be used freely to teach, preach and glorify God.

More royalty free Christian Drama skits can be found at my Fools for Christ website at [foolsforchrist.net](http://foolsforchrist.net). Find interactive Bible games at <http://guest.portaportal.com/applebeebible>

HOSTESS MARY: (*Not understanding*) But this is my house. Would she take charge in someone else's house?

ALL: Yes.

MARY MAGDELA: I'll check the fish. I wouldn't want Martha to find me sitting around. (*The women all smile as she exits and they get back to work*)

SALOME: I'll help (*she exits as well*)

RHODA: (*Amazed at all the activity*) How many more people are coming? The house is about to overflow with people.

MOTHER MARY: There were 120 of us gathered in that upper room right after Jesus ascended from the Mount of Olives.

RHODA: (*Incredulous*) 120! In one room! We'll never fit 120!

JOANNA: I am concerned about too large a group. Cuza, that's my husband, says Herod is targeting the Christians. People will notice a large gathering. They'll talk. It's just not safe anywhere. After what happened to James....

HOSTESS MARY: When the Sanhedrin put John and Peter in prison, God sent an angel to release them. Do you think he will do the same again?

MOTHER MARY: I do not know. Peter's fate is in God's hands. We aren't called to understand or agree. We are called to submit.

HOSTESS MARY: It is hard being a woman. We have no status. We have no power. All we can do is wait and watch.

MOTHER MARY: We women can serve. We can pray.

HOSTESS MARY: Yes. Prayer is a powerful force.

MOTHER MARY: And we have many gathered here to pray: The bread and fish are baking. While we wait for them shall we add our prayers, here in the kitchen? God hears kitchen prayers as well as those in the synagogue. (*The other women nod. Each woman prays in turn, first praising God, then humbling themselves, then for Peter, and finally other Christians undergoing persecution. At end they all bow their heads for private prayer.*)

© 2014 Kathy Applebee May be used freely to teach, preach and glorify God.

More royalty free Christian Drama skits can be found at my Fools for Christ website at [foolsforchrist.net](http://foolsforchrist.net). Find interactive Bible games at <http://guest.portaportal.com/applebeebible>

*Black out)*

© 2014 Kathy Applebee *May be used freely to teach, preach and glorify God.*

*More royalty free Christian Drama skits can be found at my Fools for Christ website at [foolsforchrist.net](http://foolsforchrist.net). Find interactive Bible games at <http://guest.portaportal.com/applebeebible>*