



**Community College Musical: Play and Songs**

A Resource Guide to Performing the Concert  
Created by Jehovah Shalom Youth Choir and Band 2009

## Introduction

Community College Musical is a concert that Jehovah Shalom Youth Choir and Band (JSYCB) wrote and performed at Thistleton Baptist Church on June 13, 2009. It was designed to explain the message in John 15:5 in an interesting way. In John 15:5, Jesus tells his disciples that, "I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit. Apart from Me, you can do nothing." The play is an excellent tool to reach out to people who are not Christians and encourage those who are Christians to strengthen their relationship with God.

This resource guide is free for any group to use. If you are interested in performing Community College Musical, we ask that you follow these guidelines:

- You may modify the play and song choices so the concert is relevant to the people you would perform it in front of, but please do not change the overall messages. The concert should always remain grounded in the Bible.
- We ask that you do not charge admittance when performing this concert - it is best when it is as accessible to the community as possible. Asking people for donations to assist in the cost of the performance is an alternative to entrance fees.
- If performing any of the suggested songs, please ensure your church or group has proper copyright permission from each of the artists/companies representing the artists. Christian Copyright Licensing International is a helpful resource for churches seeking appropriate copyright permission ([www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com)).
- Some of the songs suggested in this concert have been written by JSYCB. They are completely free to use/perform and available at [www.jsycb.com](http://www.jsycb.com).
- Please acknowledge JSYCB's authorship when reproducing materials in this guide. We would appreciate acknowledgement during live or recorded performances as well, if it is possible. This guide is not to be sold.

JSYCB would also appreciate knowing who chooses to perform Community College Musical. Please contact us!

## Short Description of Community College Musical

The following description can be used as a template for promotional materials to the general public and to church congregations:

*Enter a world place of dreams, Keisha's dreams. You will be transported to a dimension of sound, a dimension of sight, a dimension of mind, a dimension where people act the way they're dressed and the students sing. You will cross over into a Community College Musical, where God will show Keisha the important lesson that Jesus taught His disciples at the last supper when He told them, "I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit. Apart from Me, you can do nothing."*

## **Tips for Performing the Concert**

- While the concert has been created by youth for youth performers, people of all ages can be involved in many aspects of it.
- There are many different songs you can use between scenes. Choose the songs that are most relevant to your community. You can reduce or increase the number of songs sung in the course of the concert, depending on time and resources. Always ensure that the songs you choose are thematically in line with the play.
- General public outreach is important, but the most effective outreach is word-of-mouth based on existing relationships. Encourage your group and congregation to invite people they know to attend the concert. Give them tools, such as handbills, to make it easier for them to invite their friends and family members.
- Concerts can be a relationship-building opportunity. After it is over, make refreshments available and encourage people to stay for a while. Get to know new people who have attended. Tell them that they can always ask questions if there was something in the concert they did not understand.

## **About Jehovah Shalom Youth Choir and Band**

Jehovah Shalom Youth Choir and Band is a dynamic musical group made up of a variety of vocalists and instrumentalists.

Jehovah Shalom's passion is to glorify and praise God. Our name comes from the Bible, and it means "the Lord is Peace" (Judges 6:24). We strive to worship God, enjoy group fellowship, encourage other choir members and listeners, challenge ourselves, have fun and spread joy, build musical excellence, give the Gospel (the "Good News" of Christ), outreach to others, learn about God, and foster God-honoring relationships between people. Jehovah Shalom enjoys exploring a variety of musical styles, from contemporary to traditional kinds of songs about God.

Jehovah Shalom is a youth program ministry of Thistleton Baptist Church in Toronto, Ontario. For more information, visit [www.jsycb.com](http://www.jsycb.com), email [info@jsycb.com](mailto:info@jsycb.com), or call us at 416-741-8060.

## Suggested Order for Skits, Songs, and Devotional

- Scene 1
  - I Am the Vine (Jehovah Shalom Youth Choir and Band, on *Praiseaholics*)
  - Before There was Time (Cademon's Call, on *Thankful: The Best of Caedmon's Call*)
  
- Scene 2
  - Born Again (Third Day, on *Revelation*)
  - In Wonder (Newsboys, on *Go*)
  - Give Thanks to the Lord (Jehovah Shalom Youth Choir and Band, on *Praiseaholics*)
  
- Scene 3
  - Crossroads (Deitrick Haddon, on *Crossroads*)
  - I Need Your Help (Deitrick Haddon, on *Revelation*)
  - Take It All (Third Day, on)
  
- Scene 4
  - Ungrateful (Deitrick Haddon, on *Revelation*)
  - All Around Me (Rebecca St. James, on *Transform*)
  - Go With Me (Deitrick Haddon, on *Revelation*)
  - One Thing That I Desire (Marvin Sapp, on *Diary of a Psalmist*)
  
- Scene 5
  - It's Over Now (Deitrick Haddon, on *Crossroads*)
  - Love and Grace (Jehovah Shalom Youth Choir and Band, on *Praiseaholics*)
  - All Around (Israel Martin, on *Live from Another Level*)

## Scene 1

[Grandmother comes on stage with Bible and stool, wearing sleep clothes.]

**Granny:** Hurry up, child, it's getting late. We need to do our Bible study before we go to bed.

**Keisha** [off stage voice only]: Aw granny, I have an early class, do we have to do it tonight?

**Granny:** Are you mad?

**Keisha:** Okay, fine, I'm coming.

**Granny:** Don't forget your chair or you'll have nowhere to sit.

**Keisha** [enters with her stool, sits, and yawns dramatically]: Gran, what are we reading this time?

**Granny** [opening the Bible]: We're going to look at a passage in the book of John. Remember that John is one of the four books of the New Testament that tells the story of Jesus' life on earth. Easter's coming up, so we need to remind ourselves about all that Jesus did for us. So, at the last supper before he died, came back to life, and returned to heaven, Jesus dined with his twelve closest disciples. He had a lot to share with them. He explained that He'd be leaving the earth soon, but he wanted to let them know that they wouldn't be alone. That's where He explained what the Holy Spirit would do. He said the Spirit would be with them and remind them of everything He taught them, and give them the ability to be true to Him and do his will. In the book of John chapter 15 verse 5, He said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in Him, he will bear much fruit. Apart from me, you can do nothing."

[Keisha's eyes are shutting and head passively nodding as granny speaks.]

**Granny:** Keisha!

**Keisha:** Yes, I heard you!

**Granny:** What did I say?

**Keisha:** God is good. He is good all the time.

**Granny:** Did you hear the verse I read to you, John 15:5?

**Keisha** [takes the Bible, and granny points to where she was reading]: I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in Him, he will bear much fruit. Apart from me, you can do nothing.

**Granny:** Do you understand what Jesus was telling his disciples?

**Keisha:** Sure, sure. Put your trust in God and His Holy Spirit will help you.

**Granny:** Okay. But do you really believe it? He said, “Without me you can do nothing.” Nothing. Nothing at all! And do you know how to apply Jesus’ teaching? Sometimes we get what the Bible says in our heads, but not in our hearts. But Jesus’ words are supposed to dwell richly in our hearts! We’re supposed to follow with our hearts, souls, minds, and strength!

**Keisha:** That is totally true. Can I go to bed now?

**Granny:** Oh my word. Fine. But please, let’s at least do a quick prayer before we go to bed.

[They bow their heads.]

**Granny:** Lord Jesus, help us understand the meaning of Your teaching. Help us truly understand that we can do nothing without You, that You are our vine and we are only the branches. Help us know Your words not just in our heads, but deep in our hearts so that we can live for You as your children. Amen.

[Keisha gives her granny a hug and they both leave on stage.]



## Scene 2

**Narrator** [voice only, over Twilight Zone music]: You are entering a place of dreams, Keisha's dreams. You are being transported to a dimension of sound, a dimension of sight, a dimension of mind, a dimension where people act the way they're dressed and the students sing. You're moving into a land of both shadow and substance, of things and ideas, where nobody gives bizarre behaviour a second thought. You've just crossed over into a Community College Musical. God will answer granny's prayer and Keisha will learn the important lesson Jesus taught His disciples at the last supper. Keisha's Community College Musical is indeed a dream world, where truth is learned in strange ways. But first, let's look at her big dilemma.

[Two teams come up on stage, and the moderator comes up as well and stands between them. Everyone is arguing, and they all look to Keisha. After freezing for a short period of time, everyone swiftly leaves the stage.]

**Narrator:** Now, I know that you're all confused. But, please be patient, that is the nature of a Community College Musical. [Characters start coming up on stage to their places]. So let's move to the very beginning of Keisha's dream, where the madness all began.

[All team members enter as well as extra students, who sit around randomly. Bad and Good teams on opposite sides of the stage, talking to their own members. Keisha walks through the bottom door, looking at her surroundings and her clothes, confused because she's supposed to be sleeping.]

**Jade and T.J.:** Ooooo! New girl!

[Keisha backs up the stairs, and jumps when Jade and T.J. pop up behind her. Both Jade and T.J. pull Keisha onto the stage.]

**Jade:** Hey, I'm Jade. I'm the queen of this college, baby. Whatever I say, goes.

**T.J.:** Oh, please. Everyone knows I'm in charge around here. My name is T.J.

[Kimora sees what's happening and comes over to get Keisha, weaving her arm into Keisha's.]

**Kimora:** You don't need to bother yourself with these jokers. They're not worth your time. Besides, look at their shoes! Ew!

[Jade and T.J. look insulted and walk back to their side of the stage, starting their own conversation.]

**Kimora:** So, who are you, what your name? Cute shoes!

**Keisha:** Uh, thanks. Well, my name is ...

**Kimora:** Where are you from? Do you live on campus, or do you commute?

**Keisha:** Oh, I live with my grandmother ...

**Kimora:** So tell me, What's your story?

**Keisha:** My story? I don't know if I have much of a "story".

**Kimora:** Everybody's got a story. My story is this, my mom used to make me go to these kiddie beauty pageants. I know, weird, they used to make us wear all this makeup and dress up in these crazy outfits, mine was a sailor outfit because everyone used to tell me to go jump in a lake, but seriously, though, they were so much fun. The other girls were soooo jealous of me because I had dimples, I guess they thought my dimples were fake, but seriously, they're real, see? See? Poke 'em, they're real. For the talent competition, you know what I used to do? I would sing, yeah, show tunes, like – [sings] *climb every mountain, mem-ory, all alone in the moonlight, I feel pretty, oh so pretty, I feel pretty and witty and, it's a hard-knocks life for us, it's a hard-knocks life for us!*

[Josh and Roxanne run up beside Kimora and Keisha.]

**Josh:** Oh, man, give it a rest with the show tunes! [To Keisha] Just ignore her. She talks a mile a minute. None of us really understand what she says anyway. But we still love her.

**Kimora** [swooning]: Thanks, Josh.

**Josh:** So, how come you decided to join the debate?

**Keisha:** Debate? What debate?

**Roxanne:** Hold up, everybody. She needs to know who we are! I'm Roxanne. That's Josh. And that, as you have just witnessed, is the "Kimora Experience".

**Kimora:** I'm an experience!

**Josh:** So – what's your name?

**Keisha:** My name is Keisha.

**Roxanne:** Well, we're so excited to have you on our team – we didn't think we could get a fourth team member so quickly, and especially someone with your amazing reputation! You got debating skills!

**Keisha:** Wait, I think you're mistaken, I didn't sign up for any team ...

**Josh** [pulling out a piece of paper from his pocket]: What? Of course you did – your name is right here on the debate team application. K-E-I-S-H-A.

**Kimora:** Quiche? Isn't that some kind of food? I thought she said her name was Keisha.

**Roxanne:** [To Kimora] Take a break. [To Keisha] Don't be shy. I know it's your first day here at Collywood Community College, but you should be pleased! Your reputation as an excellent



debater precedes you!

**Keisha:** Whoa, whoa, whoa. I go to Humber College, not “Collywood College”. What is this? Did someone slip something into my tea? Because I don’t understand a word ...

**Josh:** Enough! Listen. Is this some kind of game to you, Keisha? Don’t you understand that this is the most important competition of our lives?

**Kimora:** Yeah! How am I going to become a nuclear biologist if I can’t even prove myself in a college debate?

**Roxanne:** Nuclear biologist?

**Kimora:** Or something!

**Roxanne:** The point is that you don’t seem to know what we’re all about.

**Keisha** [rolling her eyes]: No, clearly not.

**Roxanne** [calling to everyone on stage]: Hey everybody, I think we need to show the new girl what Collywood Community College is all about.

[Everyone slowly moves into formation.]

**Keisha** [suspicious]: Um, take it easy guys ... no need to do anything drastic ... what are you doing ...

**Josh:** We just want to welcome you ...

**Roxanne:** ... because, soon, you’ll be one of us.

**Everyone** [except Keisha]: Gooooooooo Collywood!

*Everyone sings: Why won’t you come into our college musical/ The way we sing and dance is inexplicable/ When we bust a move we’ll make you uncomfortable/ Just another day in our college musical*

*Kimora sings: Oh, Joshua, why don’t you love me?/ We’re both debaters on our College debating team, and*

*Good team sings: We are the good team, we debate with honour/ We are the good team, we’re excellent debaters, yeah*

*Bad team sings: We are the bad team, we’re so stereotypical/ We’re the bad team, our skills will make you cry/ We’re the bad team, our styles are so lyrical/ We’re the bad team, couldn’t beat us if you tried*

*Everyone sings: Why won’t you come into our college musical/ The way we sing and dance*

*is inexplicable/ When we bust a move we'll make you uncomfortable/ Just another day in our college musical ...*

Pointe: By the way, since no one bothered to introduce us because they're so rude, I'm Pointe and he's Chad. And we're going to beat you!

Chad: Yeah!

*Everyone sings: ... uncomfortable*

[Everyone clears off the stage, and Conscience approaches Keisha.]

**Conscience:** Hey Keisha! What are you doing here!

**Keisha:** Oh, Conscience! Girl, I am so glad you're here, these people are crazy. None of this is making any sense! First they tell me that I'm on a debating team, and then did you see what they did? They broke into song!

**Conscience:** So?

**Keisha:** Song, Conscience, SONG.

*Conscience sings: Oh, my best friend, Keisha*

Keisha: No way.

*Conscience sings: Yes, my best friend, Keisha*

Keisha: You gotta be kidding me ....

*Conscience sings: Forget what you knew before, you're a part of this world now ...*

**Keisha:** How can you be caught up in this madness, Conscience? You of all people? My best friend of more than fifteen whole years, the girl I grew up with, the most sane, rational person I know!

**Conscience:** [Shrugs] You know what they say, when in Rome ...

**Keisha:** Fine. Be that way. But I will never lose myself in this, do you hear me? So please, explain to me – in a normal talking voice – what this debate thing is about.

**Conscience:** Keisha, you need to stop sleeping in class. It's killing your brain cells. You volunteered for the debate team with Roxanne, Joshua, and Kimora when that other guy dropped out of their team. He said something about there being too much fabulous choreography and not enough research. Anyway, the debate is on plagiarism and you're rumoured to be the best debater in this whole college! You're going to knock the other team out of the water!

[Blank stare from Keisha.]

**Conscience:** Oh boy, this won't be easy. Listen, don't worry about the debate, don't worry about your skills, okay? Put your trust in God. Remember when we first became Christians, real Christians who actually had real faith? Back when we were in grade four?

**Keisha:** Yeah. I was sleeping over at your house that night, and your mom insisted on reading us a little passage from the Bible before we went to sleep. It was the part where Jesus told the little children to come to Him. It was the sort of stuff we always heard at church, but it suddenly made sense to me – and you! So weird how at the same time, a light went off in both of us! I didn't know very much back then, but I knew I needed Jesus, even though I was just a kid.

**Conscience:** Me too. When my mom finished our little prayer, I remember looking at you and smiling – I knew exactly what had happened. You had decided to give your life to Jesus, just like I did. Now I know that it was no coincidence, God was speaking to us both, telling us to put our trust in Him. It's really no different now. Put your trust in God and don't worry about this debate, this college, or even yourself – He'll take care of you and work through you, despite your weaknesses, like He did ever since our sleepover back in the day. Remember, He is the vine. You're only the branch.

[They both start walking offstage.]

**Keisha:** Hey, it's funny you mentioned that verse ...

### Scene 3

[The Good Team is sitting with each other on stage, holding books.]

**Roxanne:** Okay guys, we need a plan for this debate. I've taken the time to draw up some notes about plagiarism and what we can argue. Do NOT lose these! I will not photocopy them again!

[Everyone flips through their sheets.]

**Kimora:** This is great!

**Keisha:** Hm! Yeah, not that bad ... surprisingly. I like points D and E, in particular.

**Kimora:** Yeah, they're awesome!

[Everyone looks up at Roxanne, except Josh, who is staring at his sheets.]

**Roxanne:** Josh, what do you think?

**Josh:** So, what are we again? For? Or against?

**Keisha:** [Shaking her head] Here we go.

**Roxanne:** If you were really paying attention, you would've seen the big, huge, massive letters on the top of page one that read: ARGUMENTS AGAINST PLAGIARISM.

**Kimora:** Yeah, Josh. Get with the program. Plagiarism is bad, really bad. It's the number one killer of North American house pets today. Do you know one in three felines will contract plagiarism in their lifetimes? Do you understand how many kitties that is?

**Keisha:** My word. What in the world do you think plagiarism is, Kimora?

**Kimora:** A disease? The number one killer? Of ... North Australian koala bears?

**Roxanne:** Oh, no. No. No. [Panics as she looks at her sheets] Now that you mention it, maybe I might have researched the wrong thing ... Plagiarism is a disease? Can you tell me where you got your statistics? Oh man, oh man, I shouldn't have used Wikipedia as my single source of research! And the debate is tomorrow morning!

**Kimora:** Oh no, what's happening? You're scaring me!

**Josh:** What?! Tomorrow? NO!

[Josh, Kimora, and Roxanne start flipping through their papers and some books frantically.]

*Kimora sings: Trouble, trouble, trouble trouble*

*Roxanne sings: Trouble, trouble, double trouble*

*Joshua sings: Trouble, trouble, triple trouble*

*Kimora, Roxanne, Joshua sings: Debating trouble!*

**Keisha:** [To audience] Are you hearing this? [Back to the team] Everyone calm down. Roxanne, you didn't research the wrong thing. Never, ever listen to Kimora, okay?

**Kimora:** I agree, it's very wise advice.

**Keisha:** Plagiarism is definitely the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work.

**Josh:** Whoa! You're like, smart! Will you be team captain?

**Keisha:** I don't think I have much of a choice here. Okay, this is what we're going to do. We need to practice these points and get very familiar with them. Let's start with the weakest. Kimora, you go first.

**Kimora:** Yay! I get to go first! Wait ...

**Keisha:** Josh you go second, and Roxanne will go before me.

[They start chattering quietly with each other. The bad team's theme music comes on as they sneak up at the bottom stage and snicker.]

**Pointe:** Look at them. Chumps. They're still working on their plan! So slow!

**Chad:** We're gonna cream them!

**T.J.:** Yeah, and we're going to win the \$5000 scholarship prize!

*Bad team sings: We're the bad team, we're gonna crush those losers/ We're the bad team, we're gonna win that prize*

*Jade sings: We're the bad team, we're gonna crush those losers and beat them up and pound them in the ground and make fun of their clothes and ruin their reputations and kick them in the chins and steal their favourite CDs and force them to watch the Disney Channel ...*

**T.J.:** Hey, Jade, calm down! Take a deep breath. Ground yourself. Remember what your therapist told you.

**Jade:** Right, right. Don't go into the "dark place".

**Chad:** Why Jade, why do you always do that, man?

[Teams start moving into place for the next part, after narrator's lines.]

**Narrator:** Keisha, Kimora, Roxanne, and Josh work long through the night, running on nothing but Red Bull and a dream. They make sure their points of argument are just right to win the \$5000 scholarship prize. But in this twilight dream world of Collywood Community College, you have to expect the unexpected.

[Teams are on stage and the moderator stands between them. The judging panel sits down at the bottom of the stage, their backs to the audience. Everyone is talking.]

**Miss Carmichael:** Alright, everyone! [Hits a mallet] Attention! Order, I'd like to call this debate to order! Honourable judges, audience, esteemed debaters, today is our first annual Collywood College student debate, and we will be covering plagiarism, a very important topic, particularly for an academic institution such as ours with the very highest standards of scholarship.

*Everyone sings except Keisha: Just another day in our college musical*

**Keisha:** Oh, brother.

**Miss Carmichael:** I am Miss Carmichael, the stern but loyal parental figure for our college students, and I will be your moderator. We have a panel of judges, a jury of the debaters' peers, who will vote on which team best argues their position. Our first judge is Marcus, the school's loveable jock and team captain of Collywood's winning basketball team. [Marcus waves his hand to the audience and tosses a basketball.] Our second judge is Jocelyn, the school's beauty queen with a heart of gold and a quirky smile that makes you want to give her a big hug. [Jocelyn, wearing a sash, does the Miss America wave and cry to the audience]. Our third judge is Felicia, our schools most respected singer-songwriter free spirit who will likely drop out next year to backpack across Europe. [Felicia, wearing a guitar, strums a chord and nods her head to the audience]. Finally, our last judge is Smurkle, our college's maddest mad scientist and nerdiest nerd. But, bless her heart, we can't live without her! [Smurkle waves to the audience with a beaker in her hand, laughing manically, coughing as a result, and ending with a sweet smile.] I would like to call upon Team A to open the debate.

**Kimora** [standing tentatively]: We, Team A, believe ... plagiarism is bad and unacceptable ... because ... well, there's lots of reasons, and you'll hear lots of them today, but ... you know, I'm going to give you the first reason ... right now ... in two seconds ... so prepare yourselves to be blown away ... here it comes ...

**Roxanne:** [Coughs the word] Keisha! Help!

**Keisha:** What my fellow team members is trying to say is that we believe that plagiarism ultimately hinders creative thinking and devalues the work of the original author.

**Miss Carmichael:** Thank you. Now, your turn, Team B.

**Chad:** Our team respectfully submits that students should not be prohibited from using other people's ideas because those ideas may very well be the best arguments to prove a point.

And, unlike our opponents over here, we believe that some eloquent arguments cannot be improved upon. The focus should be on the ideas themselves, not the author, as ideas have the ability to transcend time and space.

**T.J.:** Besides, the author's ideas are usually better than what I could come up with.

**Jade:** You got that right. Preach on!

**T.J.:** Our opponents say that plagiarism is unacceptable. But the demands of college course work is very intense and it is hard to balance school, work, and social activities.

**Pointe:** Yeah, cause we do have lives out of school!

**T.J.:** College expectations are frankly unrealistic, so therefore, students such as myself are often forced to cut corners in order to meet the demands of our professors. College students are bombarded with responsibilities. Just take a look at all the flyers that are posted around the school that are fighting for our attention, for our participation. For example, look at this poster put up on our campus only last week: *Join us for Community College Musical, a night of drama and song...* I mean, honestly, who has the time for all of these things? In addition, due to high tuition and ridiculously expensive textbooks, hardly any students can afford not to work part time jobs ...

**Pointe:** [Pops her collar] Speak for yourself.

**Jade:** [Elbows Pointe] You are not helping.

**Miss Carmichael:** Certainly confidently expressed points. Team A, your response please.

**Keisha:** I would like to ask my opponents this. What is the point of going to college if you're not really learning to develop critical and creative thinking? It seems like a waste and money if they're just going to cheat. How is cheating going further your success in the real world once you leave college? This is not the movies, you can't cheat your way through a business meeting. Competition in the working world is fierce and you must be able to perform. Plagiarism does not prepare you to perform.

**Kimora:** Besides, I could have spent all that time and money at the mall buying cute shoes like the ones she has on right over there. Ooo, where did you get those? [Points at Jocelyn]

**Josh:** Yeah, and I could play video games all day long with that kind of money in my pocket!

**Kimora:** You're so good at playing video games, Josh.

**Roxanne:** It's true, last week, he Rock Banded till he couldn't Rock Band no more.

**Keisha:** Anyways. The decisions you make in college will affect you later on, if you don't work hard for something now, what will motivate you to challenge yourself later on? You'll revert to what you know best, which would be cutting corners and cheating.

[A bell rings.]



**Miss Carmichael:** Sorry debaters, there's our bell, Good work everyone. Judges, it is now is your time to decide which team argued their points most convincingly.

*Debaters sing except Keisha: What will be the answer, yeah, what will be the vote/ Who will win the prize, now, yeah, who will just go home ...*

**Smurkle** [standing up]: Unfortunately, our panel has decided that we cannot make a decision at this time and we will need to have a final tie breaking debate!

[Everyone is agitated and shocked. Keisha shakes her head.]

**Miss Carmichael:** Order! Order! What an unexpected turn of events! Well, upon the decision of the panel, we will all convene here at 9:00 sharp tomorrow morning for the tie-breaking debate. [Hits the mallet] Debate adjourned!

[Everyone leaves the stage except the bad team members, who take centre stage and quietly talk to each other.]

**Narrator:** The teams split up to discuss their strategies for the next morning in an attempt to fine tune their already overly-tuned arguments. One Red Bull too many, our friend Keisha finds herself in an unusual predicament at the far end of the library, on her way to the ladies' room.

**Pointe:** I think we should just stick with what we know.

**T.J.:** I agree! What do we know?

**Chad:** Man, I don't even know. [Looks at Pointe] What you thinking?

[Keisha walks in at the bottom stage holding a Red Bull can and looking like she has to pee, and, stumbling across the conversation, crouches down to listen.]

**Pointe:** Ummm ... let's see ... we definitely gotta give them something different ... [crouches forward] Man, I got it. It's so easy. What is research, but essentially a form of plagiarism? Don't we all look at other people's work to write essays and jumpstart ideas? We do it all the time! Look at the research: 80% of students who plagiarize actually graduate. It's the norm. Just because we may choose to "quote" and "cite" other people's ideas doesn't make it our ideas, right? So what's the big difference between plagiarism and research, then? A stupid citation? A little footnote that no one even bothers to read?

**Jade:** Great idea! And with the growth of collective knowledge online, who needs the footnotes? Everything is common knowledge these days, man.

**T.J.:** Amazing. We'll argue that plagiarism doesn't even exist anymore! It's an outdated definition.

**Chad:** And, that means that the whole debate shouldn't even exist, and being against plagiarism is like being against air. You can't be against it, because you can't really live

without it.

[Team B crouches lower together and whispers inaudibly, and the bad team music comes in. Keisha smiles wickedly and nods her head.]

**Narrator:** Ironic, isn't it? Someone who is supposed to be arguing against cheating is now in the perfect position to cheat. It's interesting how things work that way. Despite the simplicity of the way things appear at Collywood Community College, nothing is ever that straightforward.

[Team B leaves; Keisha goes upstage and Conscience joins her.]

**Keisha:** So, yeah. That's what happened. Don't tell anyone. I can't believe that I heard exactly what the other team's going to argue tomorrow. But, hey, it's not so bad. My team's not too sharp and everything's resting on my shoulders. It's all up to me. Maybe it's a blessing in disguise. I'll have no problem winning the debate now, now that I have something to work with.

**Conscience:** Yeah, great. The only problem is that it's cheating. Maybe your team should get together and discuss all your ideas, really work on one of your better points and make it the best it can be. Forget what the other team said. You weren't supposed to hear it anyway.

**Keisha:** Get together with my team? Please. They're terrible. The other team actually has a great chance of winning because, no matter how incredibly weird they may be, they're also really good at this debate thing. I just have to get on my game, that's all, I can win this thing! I can do it, I know I can.

**Conscience:** Think about what you're saying! I can, I can, I can! This is exactly what I worried about, that you'd rely on yourself. Your problem isn't the debate, Keisha. It's the message in John 15:5 that you've forgotten – "I am the vine, you are the branches, if a man remains in me and I in Him, He will bear much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing."

**Keisha:** Yeah, I know, but ...

**Conscience:** Girl, you don't really seem to know. When you rely on yourself and not on God, it's easy to fall into temptation to try to succeed in life. But you're a child of God. You can't do anything apart from Jesus. Once you stray from understanding and believing that, everything starts to fall apart. You start doing all kinds of sneaky stuff to get your own way. But it should be about what God wants and His way. You need to start thinking and acting like a branch. [Looks at her watch] Listen, I got to go. Just try to think about what I said okay? And I'll pray for you.

**Keisha** [as Conscience leaves the stage]: Yeah, Conscience, see you later. [Thinks for a second and dials on her cell phone] Granny?

**Granny** [voice only]: Keisha, child, what happened? I'm in the middle of cooking my beef stew, child, what did you do now? Anything wrong?

**Keisha:** No, no, not really. I just need to ask you something.

**Granny:** Well, this is rare. You sure nothing's wrong?

**Keisha:** I just need to ask you this. How do you start ... thinking and acting like a branch?

**Granny:** What?

**Keisha:** I mean, like what John 15:5 says. That Jesus is our vine, and we're His branches. How does one start thinking and acting like a branch, instead of always fighting to be the vine?

**Granny:** Now there's a question. How does a Christian do anything? Is it really about doing? Or is it about trusting that God will do it in you, filling your heart with His Word, praying and begging Him to do it?

**Keisha:** Yeah, granny, I hear you. Trusting. Praying. Filling my heart with what He said.

**Granny:** And that's the point. Once you humble yourself, stop fretting and bigging yourself up and let Him work in you, suddenly you will find yourself as the branch. And He will be your only vine. It's the only way for those of us who are truly His children to be. Jesus referred to it as the difference between hearing His words and actually living them, heart, soul, mind, and strength.

**Keisha:** Okay. [Sighs] Thanks granny.

**Granny:** Yes, child, you're very welcome. Oh, and I want to tell you one more thing.

**Keisha:** Yeah?

*Granny sings: You're my little girl, and I love you/ It seems like only yesterday, I held you in my arms ...*

**Keisha** [hangs up phone and the music cuts off abruptly]: Oh, granny, they got to you too! Is nothing sacred?

## Scene 4

[Debate scene set up once again, with teams and moderator at the top of the stage and judges at the bottom. Everyone is conversing quietly with their own groups.]

**Narrator:** Sun set, sun rise. Here we are, the morning of the controversial tie-breaking debate. It's anyone's game, and anything can happen. But, my dear friends, the big question still hangs in the air – will Keisha start acting like a branch and understand that without Jesus, she can do nothing? Or will she continue fooling herself into thinking that she's the vine?

**Miss Carmichael:** Team B, we'll start with you today.

**Jade:** [Pie chart flashes on the screen] As you can see from this excellent graph Pointe created ...

**Pointe:** I'm a master at Photoshop, honorable judges.

**Jade:** A large number of students plagiarized and still graduated. In fact, they managed to get good jobs and keep them. They were able to support their families and thrive. Imagine if these individuals did not acquire good grades due to the fact that they weren't able to "borrow" the ideas of others.

**Chad:** Yes, "borrow".

**Jade:** They probably wouldn't have graduated, landed successful jobs, and become productive citizens. We respectfully submit that plagiarism is the norm. When something becomes a norm, it's no longer about "right" and "wrong". It just is, and we would be smart to get with the program as a society.

**T.J.:** Look at the internet. Most information posted on the internet is not cited. But we all still benefit from it. Is it plagiarism? Or simply the free-flow of information that we've all come to expect?

**Pointe:** We also submit, then, that the definition of plagiarism is outdated, and frankly useless in this age of the information highway.

[Judges start to nod, and look impressed by the argument. Team B gives each other high-fives and slaps on the back.]

**Miss Carmichael:** Team A, you've got to top that.

**Josh** [to his team]: Don't worry, guys, I got this. Judges, our team would like to argue that plagiarism is essentially stealing, and I would like to add that it is also against the law. If you look at the pie chart our opponents created, you notice that statistics show that 80% of students who plagiarized graduated in 2008. Clearly, plagiarism does not impact a student's ability to graduate. As such, we should not be overly concerned about it.

[Keisha slaps her forehead.]

**Roxanne:** [To Josh] Pssst! Josh, shouldn't you be arguing against plagiarism?

**Josh:** Um, honorable judges, I would like to request a recess.

**Miss Carmichael:** This is not a court of law, Joshua. You can't request a recess.

**Kimora:** Objection! Stop badgering the witness!

**Miss Carmichael:** Ms. Kimora, please!

**Chad:** Our opponents have nothing! We should win this debate right now!

**Roxanne:** Oh yeah? We'll see about that! Keisha, get 'em!

[Everyone looks to Keisha, who stands up and has a worried, concerned look on her face. She pulls out a piece of paper from her pocket and browses it.]

**Narrator:** What nobody at Collywood Community College knows is that Keisha used the information she overheard last night from the other team to create an incredible argument ahead of time. Sure, she shouldn't have known what they would argue before this morning, but hey, what's the big deal? At least her team would win the debate, right?

**Josh:** Oh, yeah, get ready for this, losers!

**Pointe:** Oh please! Who does this girl think she is? Judges, give us the prize already and let's get this over with!

[Everyone starts arguing back and forth, like they did at the beginning of the play.]

**Miss Carmichael:** Order! Order! Please! Let's give Miss Keisha an opportunity to offer a rebuttal. Keisha?

[Everyone turns to look at Keisha.]

*Debaters sing except Keisha: What will be the answer, yeah, what will be the vote/ Who will win the prize, now, yeah, who will just go home/ Will this girl named Keisha impress us all today/ Who will win the prize now, yeah, who will find a way*

**Keisha:** Stop the debate!

[Everyone freezes.]

**Keisha:** [Walking forward, addressing the audience] I know what's going on now. It never was about this silly debate or plagiarism, or anything like that. [She folds the paper and puts it back into her pocket] It's about learning to be a branch, it's about being connected to the true vine, Jesus, my Saviour. He's the one this is about. He's the one everything is about. Conscience and granny were right. I've been trying to do everything in my own power, in my own way, and forgetting what I first learned when I became a Christian. He's my vine, and I

am His branch. Apart from Him, I can't do the right thing, I can't please God, I can't find truth or hope in this world, I can't survive a minute or take a breath. Jesus is the vine and He gives true life.

## Scene 5

[Debate is scene is set up again. Everyone is fighting with each other again.]

**Miss Carmichael:** Please, no more interruptions! Quiet everyone! Please! No talking, and, unfortunately, no singing either!

[Everyone gasps and is silent.]

**Miss Carmichael:** This is the moment we're waiting for. Keisha?

**Granny** [voice only]: Keisha!

**Chad:** What was that? Did you hear that?

**Granny:** Keisha! It's 7:30 in the morning! You're going to be late for your class!

**Kimora:** Where is that voice coming from? I'm scared!

**Miss Carmichael:** This is not in the program!

**Keisha:** Oh man, that's my grandmother! I think ... I think she's trying to wake me up! Wait, this is a dream?!

[Everyone on stage panics and runs off the stage, taking the props with them. Two of them quickly bring in the pillow and blanket, and Keisha lies down as if she is sleeping in her room.]

**Granny** [comes on stage]: After all your complaining last night about needing to wake up early, you still slept in! You see? We should have just done our devotions properly and not worried ourselves to rush to bed!

**Keisha** [groggy]: Oh, granny, I had such a strange dream ... I was at my school, my friends were there ... and you were there ... and you were singing, granny, you were singing ...

**Granny:** Child, I don't care if I was break dancing. Get yourself up before you're late for school!

[They both leave the stage.]

**Narrator:** You have abruptly exited Keisha's dream world. The dream is over, but the lessons she learned are very real. Now the question must turn to you, my dear friends. After being witnesses to her Community College Musical experience, do you have a better understanding of what Jesus said to his disciples that fateful night before he went to the cross? Do you understand that, without Him, you can do nothing, certainly not save your soul, certainly not transform into a new creation that lives for God by His Holy Spirit? Or has this night been just a cheesy musical, only good for entertainment and temporary laugh? Is it something that actually has the power to change your life, or will you go home and forget all about it?



[Keisha comes back on stage, bag on her back, waiting. Conscience enters.]

**Keisha:** Hey, Conscience!

**Conscience:** Hi, girl! How's it going?

**Keisha:** Well, I had a weird night, but now it's over and I'm really glad to see you. And, I just wanted to say ... thanks for everything.

**Conscience:** I don't know what I did, but ... you're welcome? [Looks out beyond the audience] I think that's our bus. Let's go or we'll be late for class.

[They start out together].

**Keisha:** Just checking – do you have any desire to sing or dance right now, whatsoever?

**Conscience:** What? No.

**Keisha:** Phew. Hey, have you ever seen a musical before?

**Conscience:** It's not really my thing.

**Keisha:** Oh. [Pauses] Let's go and see one this weekend! Come on, it'll be fun!

[They exit.]