



## DISCOVERING CHRIST EMCEE JOKES

Jokes are a good way to help people to relax. Humor is an important part of the course and these jokes are usually appreciated. Often the guests will approach the emcee with other jokes. It is important for the participants to see that Christians have a sense of humor and that laughter and faith are compatible.

### THE SHARK (GOOD FOR THE FIRST NIGHT)

As I look around at all of you, I'm reminded of the time I was invited to a Bar-B-Q, at the ranch of this very wealthy Texan. He had a huge ranch, thousands and thousands of acres. And on the ranch he had a large, lighted swimming pool in which he kept a shark. The Texan entertained regularly and sometime during the evening at every party he invited all the guests to the swimming pool. Then he offered this challenge, "If any of you will swim the length of this pool, I will give you one of three things: ten million dollars, half of my ranch, or the hand of my lovely daughter in marriage. But I must warn you; there is a shark in the pool.

Just as he finished saying this there was a big splash. And a man smartly dressed in his evening attire swam the length of the entire pool, chased by the shark. He made it to the end of the pool and climbed out just as the shark thudded into the wall. "Congratulations," said the Texan, "You are the first person who has ever done that." Now what would you like? The ten millions dollars?" "No thank you," said the man. "Would you like half of my ranch?" Again the man replied, "No thank you." "Ah!" the Texan said, "You want the hand of my daughter in marriage!" Once more the man said. "No thank you." "Well what do you want?" asked the Texan. The man replied, "I want the name of the person who **pushed me in!**"

### A TEACHING MOMENT

A few weeks ago 2 of our grandchildren, Galen and Clay, were spending the week with us. One morning my wife, Vera, was making pancakes for breakfast and the boys began arguing over who would get the first stack of pancakes. Vera recognized this as a teaching moment, a real opportunity to share a Gospel lesson. So she said to them, "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'" There was a brief silence, and then Galen quickly turned to his younger brother and said, "Clay, you can be Jesus."



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### FORREST AND THE PEARLY GATES

The day finally arrives; Forrest Gump dies and goes to heaven. He is at the pearly gates and is met by St. Peter himself. However the gates are closed and St. Peter says, "It is certainly good to see you Forrest. We have heard a lot about you. I must tell you that heaven is filling up fast, and we've been administering an entrance exam for everyone. The test is short but you have to pass before you can get into heaven.

Forrest responds, "It sure is good to be here, St. Peter, sir. But nobody ever tolt me about no entrance exam. Shor hope the test ain't too hard; life was a big enough test as it was."

St. Peter goes on, "Yes, I know Forrest, but the test is only three questions and you can have as much time as you need to figure them out. Here is the First: What days of the week begin with "T"? Second: How many seconds are there in a year? And third: What is God's first name?"

Forrest leaves to think over the questions. He returns the next day and sees St. Peter who waves him up and says, "Now that you've had a chance to think the questions over, what are your answers?"

Forrest says, "Well the first one – how many days in a week begin with the letter 'T'? Shucks that was easy. That would be - Today and Tomorrow!

St. Peter's eyes open wide and he exclaims, "Forrest, that's not what I was thinking, but you do have a point and I guess I didn't specify so I'll give you credit for that answer. How about the next one? How many seconds in a year?"

"Now that one's harder," says Forrest, "but I thunk and thunk about that and I guess the only answer can be twelve."

Astounded, St. Peter says, "Twelve? Twelve? Forrest, how in heavens name did you come up with twelve seconds in a year?"

"Shucks," says Forrest, "It's got to be twelve: January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd."

"Hold it," says St. Peter, "I see where you are going with this and I see your point, though that's not what I had in mind, but I'll give you credit for that one too. Let's go on to the next and final question. Can you tell me God's first name?"

"Sure," says Forest, "It's Harold!"

"Harold!" Exclaims an exasperated St. Peter. "How did you ever come up with Harold, as God's first name?"

"Shucks, that was the easiest of all," replied Forrest. " I learnt it from the Lord's Prayer. Our Father who art in heaven, Harold be your name!"

St. Peter opened the gates and said, "Run, Forrest, run!"



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### LITTLE OLD LADY

A few years ago Vera and I went to Rome on a Youth Pilgrimage. We were visiting one of the major churches during a time of restoration. There was scaffolding all around as the frescos were being worked on. There were a couple of men working on the fresco on the ceiling. We noticed a little Italian lady enter, genuflect, enter the pew and begin to say the rosary. Then we heard a voice say, "Little old lady, this isa Jesus. I wanna to talk with you." The lady was deep in prayer and did not respond. Then we heard a little louder, "Little old lady, this isa Jesus. I wanna to talk with you." Still no response. Then a third time, louder still, "Little old lady, this isa Jesus. I wanna to talk with you." Then the lady looked up and shouted, "Keepa quiet sonny, I'ma talking to your momma!"

### LORD AND TAYLOR

Jesus was walking around Jerusalem one day and decided that he really needed a new robe. After looking around he saw a sign for "Finklestein, the tailor." He went in and Finklestein made him a robe that fit perfectly.

"For the Son of God there is no charge! However, may I ask you for a small favor? Maybe whenever you give a sermon you could mention how your nice robe was made by Finklestein the tailor."

Jesus readily agreed and, as promised, he plugs Finklestein's whenever he preaches.

Some months later, he is back in Jerusalem and happens by Finklestein's shop. There's a huge line of people waiting for Finklestein's robes. He pushes through the crowd to talk with Finklestein.

"Jesus, Jesus, look what a marvel you've been for business," gushed Finklestein.

"Would you consider a partnership?"

"Sure," replies Jesus. "Jesus and Finklestein it is!"

"Uh, no, no." says Finklestein. "Finklestein & Jesus. After all I am the craftsman."

The two of them debated this for some time. The discussion was long and spirited, but ultimately fruitful. Finally they came up with a mutual compromise. A few days later the new sign went up over Finklestein's shop. It read LORD & TAYLOR.



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### REV. 3:20

When Fr. Arnold was first assigned to the Church of the Crucifixion, he started the practice of visiting new parishioners. So one afternoon he went to visit a family who had just registered in the parish. They lived in a nice house in a lovely neighborhood. After parking he walked up the path through a beautiful garden to the front door. He knocked on the door, waited a moment but no one answered. He thought he had heard some noise in the house so he knocked again. Still no answer. He reached into his pocket, pulled out his card, wrote a scripture reference on it and left it in the door. The reference he wrote was – Rev. 3:20.

The following Sunday he found a card from the new parishioners in the collection basket. On it was the scripture reference Gen 3:10.

### THE ATHEIST

An atheist was taking a walk through the woods, admiring all that the “accident of evolution” had created. “What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals he said to himself.

As he was walking alongside the river he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. As he turned to look, he saw a 7’ grizzly charging toward him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. He looked over his shoulder and saw the bear was closing on him. He tried to run even faster, he was so scared that tears were streaming down his cheeks. His heart was pumping frantically as he tried to run even faster. Just then he tripped on a root and fell to the ground. As he turned to get up, he saw the bear right on top of him with his paw raised to kill him.

At that instant he cried out, “Oh my God.” Suddenly time stopped – the bear froze, the forest was silent, the river stopped flowing, and a bright light shown on the man. The a voice came out of the sky saying, “For years you denied my existence and taught others that I don’t exist. You even credit my creation to a cosmic accident as you take my name in vain. And now do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I now to count you as a believer?”

The atheist, ever so proud, looked into the light and said, “It would be rather hypocritical of me to ask to be a Christian after all these years, but could you make the bear a Christian?”

“Very well,” said the voice. The light went out, the river started flowing again, the sounds of the forest started up, and the bear put down his paw. Then the bear knelt down, bowed his head and said, “Lord, I thank you for this food which I am about to receive.”