The Snack Table Showdown

The Snack Table Showdown — VBS Skit for Kids (10 min)

WHAT

This is the Cain and Abel story without ever saying "Cain and Abel." Two siblings argue at the snack table — one brought juicy strawberries in a glass bowl, the other brought a half-eaten cracker on a napkin. Jealousy boils up faster than any kid expected. A jury of two looks on. A ridiculous voice from an empty chair warns the slighted sibling that jealousy is sitting at the door. The narrator names the brother in Genesis 4 who didn't shut that door. The valuable lesson lands without ever needing a moralizing speech.

THEME

Jealousy is sitting outside your door right now. You can let it in or you can shut the door.

WHO

ABE — Older sibling. Generous by nature. Brought strawberries in a glass bowl.

CASEY — Younger sibling. Casual. Brought a half-eaten cracker on a napkin.

REF — Snack-table referee. Wears a striped shirt and takes the job seriously.

JURY KID 1 — Sitting at a table with a sign that says JURY. Eats popcorn through the whole skit.

JURY KID 2 — Other juror. Nods sagely. Says everything Jury Kid 1 says, one beat later.

VOICE OF THE CHAIR — Offstage. A ridiculous, slow, kind voice that comes from an empty seat.

NARRATOR — Steps forward at the end. Names the moment. Names Cain.

HOW (STYLE / TONE)

Comedy first, weight second. The audience laughs at the cracker, at the chair voice, at the jury kids. Then Casey's face gets quiet. The skit lives or dies on Casey's slow turn from boil to breath. Don't rush it. Let the silence do the work.

PROPS

- A glass bowl of fake strawberries (or a real bowl with red foam)
- A half-eaten cracker on a paper napkin
- A striped referee shirt and a whistle
- A small folding table with a JURY sign
- A bag of popcorn for the jury
- An empty chair, prominently placed
- A small bell on the snack table for the referee

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TIME
10 minutes

Scene 1 — The Snack Offering

(A snack table center stage. Behind it, the REF stands like a baseball umpire. To the side, a small folding table with two JURY KIDS, a bag of popcorn between them. Upstage left, a single empty wooden chair, lit just slightly. ABE enters from stage right carrying a glass bowl of strawberries. CASEY enters from stage left holding a half-eaten cracker on a napkin.)

REF
Welcome to the snack table. House rules. One offering per person. Best snack wins approval. Approval is non-edible. Begin.

ABE
I brought strawberries.

(Abe sets the bowl down with both hands like it is a casserole at Thanksgiving. The strawberries look immaculate.)

JURY KID 1
Strawberries.

JURY KID 2 (one beat later)
Strawberries.

REF (impressed)
Sustained quality. Glass bowl. Refrigeration was used. Casey, your offering.

(Casey shrugs. Walks to the table. Sets the cracker on the napkin. The napkin is a little crumpled. The cracker is a little broken. Casey returns to standing position with no further comment.)

CASEY
Cracker.

REF
Half a cracker.

CASEY
It's the half I had left.

JURY KID 1
Half a cracker.

JURY KID 2
Half a cracker.

REF

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Casey, was there ever a whole cracker?

CASEY

There was. I ate the front half on the way over.

REF

On the way to the snack contest.

CASEY

Yes.

REF

Casey. The contest is the snacks.

CASEY

I am aware.

REF

But you ate half the snack.

CASEY

I was hungry.

(The Ref rings the small bell. The Jury Kids both nod. Jury Kid 1 takes a slow handful of popcorn. Jury Kid 2 takes a slow handful of popcorn one beat later.)

REF

Approval is awarded. Approval goes to — Abe. The strawberries.

JURY KID 1

Strawberries.

JURY KID 2

Strawberries.

(Casey's face does something. The smile stays on, but the eyes drop. Then the eyes come back up — a little harder.)

Scene 2 — The Slighted Sibling

CASEY (calm, too calm)

Cool. Cool, cool, cool. So strawberries get the approval. The half cracker gets nothing.

ABE (gently)

Casey.

CASEY

I'm fine. I'm great. I love strawberries. I love that I brought a snack and got told no. I love that for me. I am thriving.

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REF

Casey, the approval is non-edible. It is a feeling. It does not actually do anything.

CASEY

It does something. It is doing something right now. It is sitting on Abe's shoulder like a parrot.

JURY KID 1

Like a parrot.

JURY KID 2

Like a parrot.

ABE

Casey. Do you want a strawberry.

CASEY

I do not want a strawberry.

ABE

Are you sure.

CASEY

I want my approval.

REF

There is no extra approval. We have used the approval for today.

CASEY

Then I want Abe's approval.

(The Ref blinks. The jury kids stop chewing. Long beat. From upstage left, the empty chair speaks. The voice is slow, kind, a little goofy, and absolutely impossible to ignore.)

VOICE OF THE CHAIR (from offstage)

Casey.

(Casey freezes. Looks slowly at the empty chair.)

CASEY (to the chair)

What.

VOICE OF THE CHAIR

Sin is crouching at your door, kid. It is right there. You can hear it breathing. Its desire is for you. But you may rule over it. You may shut the door.

CASEY

Why is the chair talking to me.

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VOICE OF THE CHAIR

I have been talking to a lot of people for a long time, Casey. Most of them have not listened. There was a guy named Cain. He was offering things at a different snack table. His brother got the approval. He did not get the approval. The chair talked to him too. He did not listen.

CASEY (quieter)

What happened to him.

VOICE OF THE CHAIR

He let the door open. He never got it shut again. The Bible spends a long time after that explaining why.

Scene 3 — The Door Closes

(Casey stands very still. Looks at Abe. Looks at the strawberries. Looks at the cracker. Looks at the chair. Long beat. Casey breathes out — slow, audible, intentional.)

CASEY (quietly, to Abe)

Abe.

ABE

Yeah.

CASEY

Good strawberries.

ABE

Thanks, Casey.

CASEY

I'm not gonna be mad at you for the strawberries being good.

ABE

Okay.

CASEY

Could I have one.

ABE (smiling)

Take the bowl. Take it. I brought it for the table.

(Abe picks up the bowl and hands it to Casey. Casey takes it slowly with both hands. Sets it back on the table where Abe placed it. Adds the cracker to the side of the bowl. Looks at the Ref.)

CASEY

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There. Joint offering. The strawberries and the cracker. Whatever the table decides about the approval, it decides about both of us.

REF (slowly)
That is — that is not how the rules work.

CASEY
That is how the table works now, Ref.

JURY KID 1 (impressed)
Joint offering.

JURY KID 2
Joint offering.

VOICE OF THE CHAIR
Casey.

CASEY
Yes, chair.

VOICE OF THE CHAIR
You shut the door.

CASEY
I shut the door.

VOICE OF THE CHAIR
Cain would be proud, kid. Cain has been waiting a long time to see somebody do that.

Final Moment — The Narrator Names It

(The NARRATOR steps in from upstage right. The jury, the ref, Abe, Casey, and the empty chair all hold their positions. The narrator addresses the audience directly.)

NARRATOR: There is a story in the very front of the Bible — Genesis chapter four. Two brothers brought offerings. One was approved. One was not. The Bible says that sin was crouching at the door of the brother who was not approved. It says — and this is one of the kindest sentences in the whole book — its desire is for you, but you must rule over it. You can shut the door.

NARRATOR: Cain did not shut the door. The Bible takes the rest of the chapter to talk about what happened next. It is one of the saddest chapters in the whole book.

NARRATOR: Kids. Jealousy is sitting outside your door right now. It is sitting outside the door of every kid in this room. Somebody else got picked. Somebody else got the approval. Somebody else got the strawberries and you got half a

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cracker. The chair is talking. You can hear it. Listen. You can let it in. Or you can shut the door. Cain let it in. You don't have to.

NARRATOR: And here is the secret the chair has been waiting to tell you. The kid who shuts that door does not lose anything. The kid who shuts that door gets a brother. Casey shut the door. Abe handed over the whole bowl. The snack table ended up with twice the snacks and twice the family. That is what shutting the door looks like. That is the kindness of the God who put that warning in the very first chapters of the Bible — He did not want any kid to lose a brother over a bowl of strawberries. Not one.

> *(Casey looks at the chair. Bows to it once, very slightly. The chair does not respond. Casey turns back to Abe. They walk offstage together with the bowl between them. Lights fade.)*
>
> *(END)*

END

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