

Z Finds Reverse Gear

Use this skit to:

- ***Introduce the game 'reversals and opposites' in The Upside-down Dinner' Multi-Age service outline (available on BUV C&F Resource page).***
- ***Develop the theme of 'reversals' anytime you are looking at how Luke uses this idea in his gospels***
- ***Introduce the character of Zacchaeus, expanding the 'Z' name. (Also can adapt to the message of John the Baptist (Luke 3) or Jeremiah (and so adapt the name... ie. J Finds Reverse Gear)***
- ***Use as a general exploration of the idea of a communal change of direction – perhaps to celebrate a key strategic move in your community life.***
- ***As an introduction to confession and repentance.***

A: I've invited someone really special along today to help us play a game, and we're just waiting for them to arrive. I am actually a little bit anxious that Z might have had a bit of trouble finding a parking spot and....(sounds of a little engine putting along begin as Z drives into the building in a little plastic kid's car or a cardboard box car).

A: Z! Z! You made it! Good to see you!

Z: G'day, I hope you don't mind, there was no room left to park outside and I saw this lovely big space up here so I thought I'd park here. (Z continues driving, making circles around the inside of the building).

A: Inside?

Z: Sure - inside.

A: Z that is just like you – doing everything inside out and upside down.

Z: Yep! I do everything outside in and downside up!

A: Well, we've been waiting for you, and really looking forward to your game, so why don't you see if you can park somewhere and we'll get started.

Z: OK (Z drives up too close, and noses in to a corner).

A: (keeps up a commentary as Z does this.)

Z: (with exhilaration) Done. I'm parked. Totally cool to be here. I'll just get out (tries the door, but finds he is jammed in.)

A: Z?Z? Are you coming? What's the deal?

Z: I can't open the door. I'm stuck.

A: Well hang on, we'll get some advice? Anyone here know anything about being in a tight corner, or driving small plastic vehicles? Either category will do (choose a few people to 'survey' the situation – with much chin rubbing and hmm-ing).

Z: What do you reckon, O panel of experts?
(allow a few suggestions and second opinions or do a 'huddle')

A: Ok Z, the consensus of the gathered wisdom here is this. You need to find reverse gear and back out.

Z: Reverse gear. Hmm, reverse, ok...right...reverse...um...Reverse, that's going the opposite direction I came in right? Yep, just checking. So I can't just keep going the same direction, and hope it'll eventually get me out of here? Cos I think I can see a turn in the road just up ahead.

A: What? You've got to be kidding! That's an ant crawling up the wall. Look Z we'll all help. Try the gear stick – and we'll make it a communal effort to help you find reverse, and back out of there.

Z: Reverse – really? – never used it before! So let's give it a go...changing direction.

A: Ok people, we need your best engine revving, let's go....(lead engine revving). Now, Z, put her into neutral and let her idle (lead engine idling 'putputputput'). Now try reverse gear. There may be a slight clunk....(Z makes sound effect of badly crunching gears) ..that's completely normal! And now the engine will make a higher pitched hum as you ease out gently (lead engine humming – Z begins to back out slowly).

Z: Reverse! Reverse! I'm reversing! I'm going a completely new direction!
(Z reverses out, parks, and gets out of the car. A leads cheering! Z takes one more spin around the building, and parks successfully.)

A: Well done Z. You found reverse gear. We didn't think you could do it! But you went in a completely new, opposite direction. Now are you ready to help us do some more reversing? We are going to play a game of reverse or opposites. I'm going to say a word and you can choose the person who you think can reverse it and tell me its opposite meaning. So for example: I say "Go" – who are you going to choose? And the reverse of Go is...(Hopefully volunteer says "Stop"). *Continue with game.*