

# Building Bridges

CHARACTERS: 3

COSTUMES: A and B in street clothes. Narrator/carpenter in overalls

PROPS: Hat, tool box, nails, two pieces of wood for a cross

SETTING: Implied outdoors

Narrator/carpenter: *(To audience)* Once upon a time two siblings who lived on adjoining property fell into conflict. It was the first serious fight in 40 years of living side by side, sharing things, helping each other and enjoying being friends as well as siblings.

A: *(To audience)* I don't even remember what started it. It was a small thing someone said.

B: *(To audience)* But it grew, no, it exploded into bitter words. *(To A, gruffly)* I have absolutely had enough of you. It seems all you want to do is say and do hurtful things to me. Stay out of my life and off my property from now on.

A: *(Angry)* Fine, I'll stay out of your life. And to make it easier, I'll just take my bulldozer and make a creek between our properties. That way you needn't worry about me getting in your way. Nor will I have to worry about you getting onto my property or into my business anymore. *(A takes a blue streamer and lays it down to divide their property)*

Narrator/carpenter: For months, things went on. At times, the brothers stood on either side of the creek, hurling insults and screaming at each other. Then, one morning, there was a knock at B's door. He opened it to find a carpenter in need of work. *(Picks up his tool box, puts on hat, pantomimes knocking on the door)*

B: Yes?

Carpenter: *(handing him his business card)* I'm looking for a few days work. Perhaps you have a few small jobs here and there that I could help you with?

B: Yes, I do have a job for you. See that farm across the creek? That's my awful, horrible, terrible neighbor. A few months ago there was a meadow between us, but he took his bulldozer and now there's a creek between us. I think he did that to spite me, but I'll go him one better. Take that lumber and build me a fence - an 8-foot high fence, so I won't have to look at him ever again.

Carpenter: I think I understand the situation. I have wood and nails. I can fix the situation. *(B exits. Carpenter takes 2 pieces of wood and makes a cross. He lays it over the "creek")*

B: *(Angry at the carpenter.)* This is not a fence; this is a bridge. Why did you do that?

Carpenter: Because sometimes what you want is not what you need. *(A comes in, stares at the bridge, breaks into a big grin and walks across the "bridge" with open arms, hugging B when reaching the other side.)*

A: Thank you so much. After all I have said and done, you built a bridge. Can you forgive me for everything? *(Carpenter quietly exits without them noticing)*

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B: Ummm. Yeah. I forgive you. Will you forgive me too?

A: Absolutely. *(They embrace)* It was actually that carpenter who built the bridge for us. I don't even know his name. You are quite a brother to build this bridge after all I've said and done.

B: *(Starts across the bridge. They meet in the middle and hug.)* I've missed you. I am so happy we can be friends as well as siblings again. Actually that carpenter *(Looks around)* Where did he go?

A: Who was he?

B: *(reading the business card)* The carpenter from Galilee. "I fixed it all with wood and nails." *(To audience)* Who do you think that carpenter was? What do you think he means about fixing things with wood and nails? *(A and B should continue questioning the audience to bring out that the carpenter was Jesus, he fixed things by dying on the cross for us and that by letting him give us what we need, not always what we want, we have a better life in him.)*

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