

Parts

Scribe	Narrator	Granddaughter	Grandfather
Yehuda	Yeshua	Ya'acov	Uncle Mort
Uncle 1	Uncle 2	Uncle 3	

Note that parts for Narrator, Scribe, and Grandfather require reading of many Hebrew words.

Skit for Hoshana Raba

This skit draws material from the water ceremony that traditionally took place on Hoshana Raba (the last day of Succot) as well as information about Succot taken from the Torah, and events in Yeshua's life concerning Hoshana Raba that are described in the 9th chapter of John.

Scribe	Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'On the fifteenth of this seventh month is Chag haSuccot the Feast of Booths for seven days to the LORD...'" "On exactly the fifteenth day of the seventh month when you have gathered in the crops of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of the LORD for seven days, with a Sabbath rest on the first day and a Sabbath rest on the eighth day. Now on the first day you shall take for yourselves the foliage of beautiful trees, palm branches and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days."
Narrator	A Grandfather speaks to his granddaughter on the eve of Hoshana Raba and reviews the feast to date. He is glad they are going to Jerusalem, because he feels this may be the last Succot he celebrates during his lifetime. He is tired and very thirsty (both physically and spiritually) and he wants to rejoice, to have simcha in God's presence one more time....
Granddaughter	But grandpa, what if the Temple wasn't here? I mean, what if the Romans tear it down? How can we have simcha?
Grandfather	<u>Don't worry</u> , my little treasure. Remember when Abraham was asked by Isaac, "where is the animal for the sacrifice", what did Abraham say?
Granddaughter	He said "Oy vay"?
Grandfather	No, no. He said, <u>don't worry</u> God will provide. That's right, and just like He did then, so He will do if ever the Temple is destroyed, He will provide a sacrifice. And then we will continue to have simcha in God's presence.

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Narrator The scene -- Yeshua and his brothers are at their home in the Galil. The brothers are talking about eldest brother Yeshua. They think he doesn't hear them ... but he does! Finally, Yehuda says:

Yehuda "Yo, big brother, Joe Rabbi! Why don't you head down to Judea? I hear Ed McMahanstein is recruiting for *Miracle Search* and you know that "water into wine" thing will play big-time in Jerusalem [laughs all around].

Yeshua [smiling widely]: Perhaps you boys should go up for the chag, I will stay in the Galil for a few more days."

[As Yeshua steps out of the room]

Ya'acov Stop your teasing, remember what Momma always says, "I gotta feeling 'bout that boy."

Narrator Grandfather, granddaughter and her uncles are sitting in the succah. Grandfather recounts the week of Succot, the joyous building of the succah even though the area this time of year is dry and thirsty, God promised as he did in days ago, to lead us through that vast and dangerous desert, a thirsty and arid land where he made water come out of a solid rock (Deut 8:15).

Grandfather My little treasure, please get me a drink of water [she begins to pour him some water from an old jar]. Fekh! Not from that stagnant jar, go get me some from the flowing stream over there.

Granddaughter [While returning with the water]: Why do you always drink so much water grandpa?

Grandfather Because it's good for my health. And figuratively speaking, we are a very thirsty people; I guess it's in our nature. [Holding the water up to heaven] "But it is our inheritance from God to be quenched by Him." [Takes a big, long drink and sighs refreshed].

Scribe "It is written in Isaiah: U'shavtem mayim b'sasson mi-ma'aney haYeshua -- With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." (Is 12:3).

Grandfather Tomorrow is Hoshana Raba, the greatest day of the chag, where we pray for rain and God's provision during the *Simchat Bet Hasho'evah*, the water ceremony.

Narrator Granddaughter is a self proclaimed Torah Scholar, after each Scripture is recited, she glibly sounds off the exact reference and chalks another one with finger on an imaginary chalkboard and a does a "rim shot."

Uncle Mort [stands up] We now pause for our daily Bible-trivia quiz.
Why was Goliath so surprised when David hit him with a slingshot?

Granddaughter It was the first time it ever entered his head.

Uncle Mort Very good. Okay, how about this one.
How do we know that Job went to a chiropractor?

Granddaughter I don't know that one.

Uncle Mort Because in Job 16 we read, "I had come to be at ease, but he proceeded to shake me up; and he grabbed me by the back of the neck and proceeded to smash me."
And now, back to our skit.

Narrator The Temple history of this Holy Day contained two beautiful and moving ceremonies: The ritual of "the Pouring of Water," and the "Lighting of the Temple Menorah." It was a joyous time, indicative of the Messiah, who is the light of the world, would pour out the living waters of the Ruach HaKodesh, the Holy Spirit bringing God's salvation to all the people. The day was called in Hebrew, Hoshana Raba, which means "the great salvation."

Grandfather As cohanim, your uncles will serve tomorrow during the final day of the chag. Here's what each one will do.

Uncle 1 The cohanim always divide themselves into three large groups, with each group heading off out of the city in different directions.

Uncle 2 My group will set off to Bet Lechem to purchase animals for the sacrifice.

Uncle 3 My group will travel in procession to a place below Jerusalem called Motza, where we will cut willow branches. The lead cohen from my group will take a golden pitcher with him to the Pool of Shilo'ach to draw three measures of water to be used in the ritual of "the Pouring of Water."

Uncle 2 We will place our sacrifices upon the altar.

Uncle 3 Then, we will take our willows and place our willow branches around the altar forming a canopy over the sacrificial animals.

Uncle 2 A cohen will then take the golden pitcher and pour the water into a basin at the foot of the altar while his assistant pours measures of wine into another bowl. As this takes place, the cohanim will blow their shofars [someone blows] and all the people will wave palm branches while singing praises from Psalms ch.113-118, and calling the festival “z’ man s’ mechatenu (the season of our joy).”

Everyone (waving branches): Ana Adonai Hoshea Na. Ana Adonai Hatz'licha Na. O Lord, save us! O Lord, grant us success. O Lord, save us! O Lord, grant us success.

Narrator The brothers of Yeshua are gathered at the chag, suddenly Yehuda sees His brother Yeshua standing in the Temple courtyard just as the cohen is performing the Water Ceremony.

Yehuda Hey Ya'acov look, it's Yeshua. What is he doing?

Scribe On the last day, that greatest day of the feast of Succot, Yeshua stood and cried out, saying --

Yeshua If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

Narrator Grandfather slowly stands, looking at Yeshua and Yeshua turns and looks directly at him, smiling.

Grandfather “It is written: O Lord, save us! Hinei El Yeshu’ati, behold God is my Salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.”

Yeshua (looking at grandfather and then at the crowd) “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

Everyone Save us, Hoshea Na, Help us, Hoshea Na! (Psalm 118:25)

Grandfather Baruch haba bashem Adonai, Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord. From the house of the LORD we bless you. (Psalm 18:26)

Ya'acov Mom always says, “There’s just something about Him.”

Grandfather (turning to granddaughter): The prophet Zechariah wrote: “someday all nations will come to Jerusalem to celebrate Succot and all will rejoice before the LORD. (Zech 14:16)

Scribe ‘Come!’ And let anyone who is thirsty come; let anyone who wishes, take the water of life free of charge.” (Rev 22:17).