

Opening Skit

Props & Characters:

- **Special agent lockbox**, marked "Top Secret"
- **1 cross**
- **1-2 chairs**
- **1 watch**
- **NIV Bible**
- **Special Agent Tre** (Code Name: Trinity); dressed like a spy, with a hat and sunglasses
- **Special Agent Buddy** (Code Name: Barnabas); dressed identical to Tre
- **Agent Strange/Scout**

Note: Use any additional props available to increase interest. Encourage the characters to move often and to use the whole platform/stage.

Dialogue:

Agent Tre: *(Practicing John 17:3a to himself)* "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ..." **(John 17:3a)**. I need to get this right for tonight's commissioning ceremony. "Now this is eternal life..." *(Phone rings, Tre answers)* **Jesus' call transforms my mission.** Agent Trinity speaking. Yes sir. Of course, sir. Do You want me to wait for Buddy...I mean Agent Buddy? No? Ok, I will head right out. Thank You, sir. *(Tre exits stage)*

Agent Buddy: *(Enters opposite side of stage)* Agent Tre? Kids, have you seen Agent Tre? What? He was just here? That's weird; he usually waits for me. Oh, well. I'll just wait here for him.

Hey recruits! I've got something to show you! *(Sits down, removes his shoe and places it to his ear)* Dial tone! And that's not all! *(Jumps up and goes over to the special agent lockbox)* Check this out! *(Opens lockbox with thumbprint and proudly holds up the cross and Bible.)*

Agent Tre: *(Re-enters stage)*

Agent Buddy: Agent Tre! Look! I can open the special agent lockbox! I can hardly believe it. I really am a special agent. Well, almost. I know it's not official until the ceremony, but still—this is AWESOME!

(Agent Strange enters same side as Tre)

Agent Buddy: What is HE doing here?

Agent Tre: Agent Buddy, this is Scout. *(Awkward moment as Buddy glares at Scout, who looks down at the floor)* Have a seat and make yourself comfortable, Scout. *(Scout sits down, now even more nervous. Buddy pulls Tre to the other side of the stage for a “private” talk.)*

Agent Buddy: *(In a loud stage whisper)* Are you serious? Why would you bring him here? You know he can't be trusted! Yesterday he trapped you, the day before he tricked you—or tried to...

Agent Tre: Agent Buddy, when the Boss gives us a mission, what are we supposed to do?

Agent Buddy: Carry it out. Follow wherever He leads us.

Agent Tre: That's right! Well, He gave me a mission this morning: to bring Agent Strange—I mean Scout—back here. So that's what I did. Whatever the Boss has in mind, there's one thing I know: everyone needs the Lord, Buddy. Even Scout! If I recall, it wasn't too long ago that you didn't have a relationship with Jesus either.

Scout: So, uh, thanks for inviting me into your headquarters and all, but why am I here? What exactly do you want from me?

Agent Tre: Oh, I don't want anything FROM you, Scout. I was wondering if I could do anything FOR you.

Scout: What???

Agent Tre: Well, I don't really know you, but I know the Boss really loves you and...

Scout: *(Stands up, suddenly angry)* Stop right there! I am out of here! *(Starts walking away)*

Agent Tre: What? Wait! Did I say something wrong?

Scout: Yeah! You did! *(Turns and faces Tre)* You said the Boss loves me but that can't be true. I've tried and tried to be good enough, but I always fall short. *(Tre and Buddy look at each other, confused)*

Agent Tre: What makes you say that?

Scout: My dad was an awesome agent—you've even said so yourself! So I've tried to do all the things I saw my dad do, only better, but it just seems like no matter how hard I try, I always mess things up.

Agent Buddy: Scout, I've got to be honest. When I first started coming here, I just liked the cool gadgets Agent Tre had and the exciting missions he went on. I thought if I could just be like him, I would become an agent too. I started dressing like him and acting like him but that's all it was—an act! I was no different on the inside. That's when I realized that becoming an agent is about being transformed on the INSIDE, not changing what I look like or act like on the outside. But as hard as I tried, I could never change who I was on the inside. I just didn't have the power to do that. And I still don't—but God does! He made real transformation possible through Jesus. Jesus is the key! That's why Jesus IS the Way! Real transformation only happens through a real relationship with Jesus.

Scout: Then I guess I'm just hopeless. *(Starts for the door)*

Agent Buddy: I get that. *(Scout pauses)* I understand how you feel because that's what I believed too. I thought following Jesus meant you would suddenly have it all together and never mess up again. Then I realized that didn't make any sense. Jesus' disciples certainly didn't have it all together. They messed up, too. But something WAS different about Jesus AND His followers. They were different on the inside, which changed how they responded on the outside. They really were transformed. Take Agent Paul and Silas, for instance. They were unfairly beaten and imprisoned, and yet they still had joy. Following Jesus doesn't mean I'll never mess up or that I won't experience consequences, or hard times. It means that I can have joy deep inside even when bad things happen, because I'm never alone. Jesus is right there with me.

Agent Tre: Thanks, Buddy. I couldn't have said it better myself. Hey, Scout! We're having a special agent commissioning service for Buddy. I'd love for you to be there if you can make it. Oh! One last thing before you head out. I wanted you to have this. *(Takes out the watch purchased during the earlier mission and hands it to him.)*

Scout: *(Scout looks at it in shock; voice gets shaky)* Wh-where...did...you get this?!

Agent Tre: The Boss sent us on a mission to find it. He didn't tell us why. We looked all over the city for it. Just now, I got the clear impression that I was supposed to give it to YOU.

Scout: This is just like my dad's watch. I don't know what else to say but thank you! I, uh, I'll think about what you said, Buddy. And maybe I will be at that service. I don't know. I've got a lot to think about. *(Scout leaves. Tre and Buddy look at each other.)*

Agent Tre: I had no idea that watch would mean so much to him.

Agent Buddy: I think it's awesome being an agent for a Boss who loves people so much!

Agent Tre: And I really appreciate how you told your story, Buddy. That's exactly what Agent Paul did. When people are hurting, they often get angry and they can lash out. They might even want to argue about God and Jesus. But when we just share the facts about what Jesus did for us and how we were transformed when we chose to follow Him, there's nothing to argue about because it's the obvious truth!

Agent Buddy: *(Beaming)* Oh, I almost forgot! My thumbprint worked and THIS was in the special agent lockbox! *(Holds up the cross)* Do you know what it means?

Agent Tre: Nope. I guess we'll have to find that out in our Mission Brief! In the meantime, let's get ready for your commissioning ceremony! Recruits, you're all invited to Buddy's commissioning too. We'll see you after your Transformation Stations!

Director: I wonder if Scout is going to be all right. I sure hope so! Isn't it something how the Boss spoke to Tre about giving Scout that watch? I can't wait until Buddy's special ceremony. I'm so glad we are all invited to celebrate. Wow! We have a big day ahead! I'll be sure to take the cross to your Mission Brief Station so you can figure out how it relates to today's mission!

Closing:

If time allows, sing 1-2 songs focused on Jesus our King; our obedience; God's call.

End with Day 4 Song, "*John 17:3a, Now this is eternal life,*" with hand motions.

Kids are dismissed by groups and given any instructions they need to get to their Transformation Station.

Play theme song as children exit.

Closing Skit

Play theme song and memory verse song as children return.

Ask volunteers to share the passcode, memory verse, favorite activity, or something they learned. Or have trivia questions prepared to ask early arrivers.

Begin with the top secret hand signal.

Props & Characters

- 3 chairs
- 1 flashlight
- 1 pair of sunglasses identical to Tre's, to be presented to Buddy
- **Special Agent Tre** (Code Name: Trinity); dressed like a spy, with a hat and sunglasses
- **Special Agent Buddy** (Code Name: Barnabas); dressed identical to Tre
- Scout

Dialogue:

Director: What a great day we had learning that Jesus' call transforms our mission! Let's welcome back our worship leader to review our songs for this week.

(Worship leader sings theme song and today's memory verse song with hand motions.)

Who would like to share one of our passcodes from this week? *(Ask children to share until each day's verse and passcode has been recited.)*

It is a big day for Tre and Buddy. Let's see what they are up to today...

Agent Tre: *(Standing up and announcing in an official voice)* Ladies and gentlemen, today, we have the special privilege of commissioning a brand new agent! Agent Barnabas, please rise.

(Before Buddy stands up, Scout walks in quietly and humbly.)

Scout: Am I too late?

Agent Tre: *(Huge smile)* No! Not at all! In fact, you are right on time! We were just getting ready to commission our newest agent. Please join us!

Scout: *(Takes a seat on stage)*

Agent Tre: *(Still smiling, repeats in the same tone)* Today, we have the special privilege of welcoming a brand new agent into the family! Agent Barnabas, please rise. *(Buddy stands by Agent Tre)*

Buddy, this week you prayed to receive Jesus' gift of salvation. You accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior and pledged to follow Him all the days of your life. You were baptized and committed to carefully study the Agent Handbook *(Holds up a Bible)* and to do what it tells you to do. You have been praying and listening carefully to Jesus, our wonderful Boss. In addition, I see you sharing what you have learned with others. It is clear to me and to everyone who knows you that Jesus' love has transformed your identity, Jesus' power has transformed your life, Jesus' presence transforms your choices, and Jesus' call has transformed your mission. We celebrate what God has done in you and what He will now do for others through you.

This flashlight is now yours. May it serve as a constant reminder that Jesus is the light of the world and that the world is filled with people walking in darkness. It is now your lifelong mission to live in the light, to walk in the light, and to share this light with others. If you ever have trouble finding your way, humble yourself, admit where you are, and never be too proud to ask for help. Do you accept this challenge? If so, say, "I do."

Agent Buddy: I do.

Agent Tre: *(Gives Buddy a pair of sunglasses and both put their glasses on)* Everyone, please welcome Special Agent Buddy!

Agent Buddy: *(Nods and mouths "thank you" to everyone)*

Agent Tre: Are you ready?

Agent Buddy: I sure am!

Agent Tre: Then let's go! We've got work to do! *(Both start to head out the door)*

Agent Buddy: *(Stops and turns to Scout)* Hey, friend! Wanna' come along?

Scout: Me? Really? YES! *(Jumps up and steps between them; Tre and Buddy put an arm around Scout's shoulders and all three walk out together)*

Director: God has given us a great last day at *Operation Transformation!* Each day we have celebrated God's transforming love and power! While you were in your Transformation Stations, we counted the offering. Do you want to know who gave the most today, the girls or the boys?

The girls gave \$_____ and the boys gave \$_____! Way to go! *(Give a report on the total offering for the week and what the children have accomplished. If you had a goal or a special incentive to help kids reach their goal, share it now.)*

(Ask all the volunteers to stand and give children a chance to thank all the workers at VBS with applause. If you are planning a special program, share the details. If possible, plan some extra time during the closing to practice the songs and the passcodes to share in the program. Be sure to have an invitation for children to take home to their families inviting them back to be a part of the program. If a dinner is also happening, be sure the details are provided so that new families understand they are invited.)

Thank You, God, for Your transforming love for each one of us. Thank You for the chance to learn more about You and the chance to help other children around the world. We pray that you will help other children know Your love and Your Son, Jesus! Bring us back together on Sunday to celebrate all You have done this week with our families! In Your Son's name we pray. Amen.

(Remind everyone to invite someone to the program or dinner on Sunday.)

Closing:

Give any other announcements or direction for dismissal. Play theme song as children leave.