

Old Man Robinson

By Doug Irving & Gary Randolph



Theme and Purpose

In Exodus 20 the people of Israel saw the lightening and smoke around the presence of God – and freaked out! They told Moses to go talk to God and then just tell them about the experience. They didn't want to meet with such a dangerous God themselves. The three boys in this sketch represent attitudes similar to those that people today often have about God: God is scary, God is mean, God doesn't want people to have any fun. Paralyzed by their fear, they cannot approach Old Man Robinson. Finally, Old Man Robinson does what God did for us – he comes to them.

Cast list	Jacob – a boy about 10 or 12 Austin – a boy about 10 or 12 Nick – a boy about 10 or 12 Old Man Robinson
Approximate Running Time	3 minutes
Scene Description	A yard. No set decoration is necessary; the yard can be imagined.
Prop List	Baseball Baseball bat Baseball gloves Baseball caps
Other Production Notes	The name Robinson is the name of our pastor. You may want to personalize it with your pastor's name for your church.
Related Scriptures	Exodus 20:18-19; Mark 5:1-17
Song Suggestions	Awesome God, Heaven in His Eyes (Rich Mullins), Indescribable, He Knows My Name

With actors off-stage, play soundfx of ballbat hitting a ball. The three boys run on-stage from stage right. They peer toward the congregation at the front of the platform.

JACOB:

Oh, man! The ball landed in Old Man Robinson's yard.

AUSTIN:

Now what are we going to do?

NICK:

You go get it, Austin.

AUSTIN:

I'm not going to go get it. It's your ball, Jacob.

JACOB:

Well, you hit it, Nick.

NICK:

Yeah, but Old Man Robinson is your neighbor, Austin. Besides you should have caught it, doofus.

AUSTIN:

Who are you calling doofus, doofus?

JACOB:

Guys! This isn't helping. One of us needs to go in Old Man Robinson's yard and get the ball. And Nick's right about him being your neighbor, Austin. You know him. Just sneak in. He'll never see you.

AUSTIN:

I don't know him. My dad knows him, but I don't know him. I don't want to know him. He's scary lookin'.

JACOB:

Tyler said that Josh said that Ryan went to Old Man Robinson's house to sell candy for scouts, and he saw a whole collection of balls and frisbees and stuff that got into his yard, and he kept them and never gave them back. It's like he doesn't want kids to have any fun. Man, I'm never going to get my ball back.

NICK:

I would go, but if he found out I'm the one that hit the ball, he'd kill me. I heard he's really mean.

AUSTIN:

OK. How about Odds and evens?

Jacob and Nick together:

OK.

AUSTIN:

Ready. One-Two-Three.

Each boy shakes fist with each counted number. After "three" they all stick out two fingers.

JACOB:

We're all even. Let's do it again.

AUSTIN:

OK. One-Two-Three. E

Each boy shakes fist with each counted number. After "three" they all stick out three fingers.

NICK:

Now we're all odd.

JACOB:

(pushing Austin) You're the most odd, doofus. You go.

AUSTIN:

Forget it. Let's just all go together.

NICK:

Right. We'll all go together. Austin, you lead the way.

AUSTIN:

No, you lead the way.

JACOB:

I think he's right, Nick. You lead the way. We'll be right behind you.

Nick takes two steps. He looks behind him and sees that they haven't moved.

NICK:

Hey!

AUSTIN:

We're behind you, man - (*snickering*) way behind you.

NICK:

I'm here all alone.

JACOB:

You're doing great, buddy.

NICK:

I'm not moving another step until you two get up here.

JACOB:

(*to Austin*) Let's see how long he just stands there.

NICK:

You doofuses! Are we going to just stand here forever? Somebody has to do something if we're ever gonna get our ball back.

They pause a few seconds, looking at each other.

NICK:

Well?

Old Man Robinson walks onto the platform, holding a baseball. He asks if the ball is theirs. They nod silently. He hands the ball to Nick. Nick takes it and cautiously backs away. He bumps into the others, and they all turn and run off the platform.

Fade to black

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