

The Real St George

(A drama for St George's Day)

Characters

Narrator

Boy

Girl

George

Emperor Diocletian

Galarius

Narr: George was born 1,730 years ago in Capedocia, an area that is now in Turkey. As he grew up he quickly became very tall and very blond and very handsome. This made him very popular with his friends.

Boy: George! come and play with us!

Girl: Hey Georgie! Come sit next to me!

Boy: George is the best. He's brilliant!

Girl: He's so handsome!

Narr: In those days much of the western world was ruled by the Romans. Capedocia was part of the Roman Empire and the Roman Emperor had a very powerful army. When George was 17 he enlisted in the Roman army. He joined the Cavalry and made a great impression as he galloped along on his great white horse.

Boy: George is so brilliant he'll be a commander in no time at all!

Girl: Handsome and in uniform!

Narr: George was a good soldier and because he was taller than most of the other soldiers people started to notice him. One day the Emperor Diocletian and his army commander Galarius were inspecting the troops.

Dio: Who is that tall handsome chap over there?

Gal: That your majesty is George.

Dio: Is he a good soldier?

Gal: Very good your majesty. He fights well, is liked by the other soldiers and is an all round nice chap.

Dio: Promote him then. I like the look of him. I think he'll go far.

Gal: Yes, your majesty.

Narr: So George was promoted and put in charge of 10,000 troops. It was a very important job.

B & G: Three cheers for George! Hip Hip.

All: Hurray!

Narr: George was known for being fair to everyone. He respected his soldiers and his soldiers respected him. But why?

Geo: You mean you don't know?

Narr: Well I know of course - I've read the script! But this lot don't know, so why don't you tell them?

Geo: OK. Well you see it's because I am a Christian. I heard all about a man called Jesus who lived about 300 years ago and how he lived and died and rose again. I heard about how, because of Jesus, God can forgive me and give me a new start in my life, and when I asked Jesus to help me my life changed completely. Jesus said: 'Treat others as you want them to treat you,' and that is what I try to do.

Narr: Now back in Rome things were not going so well for the Emperor Diocletian. Everything was getting very expensive, there weren't many jobs, people were getting hungry and angry. There were riots and unrest in the city.

Boy: We want food! We want food!

Girl: It's Diocletian's fault, he's a useless Emperor. Let's get rid of him!

B & G: Down with Diocletian! Down with Diocletian!

Narr: So Diocletian and Galarius met to see what they could do.

Dio: It's very bad Galarius.

Gal: We need a plan. We need to make them angry with someone or something else.

Dio: But who?

Gal: Well, how about those Christians? There's quite a lot of them now and they don't really act like real Romans you know. They go on about this Jesus and there only being one God. It's not what Romans do is it.

Dio: Good idea Galarius. I'll issue an edict saying that it is all the Christians fault and that we should knock down their churches, burn their books and arrest and torture those who won't deny all this Christian stuff!

Narr: So that is what Diocletian did, and the people fell for it!

Girl: It's all the Christians fault! It says so on this edict from the Emperor.

Boy: Well if it's their fault we should do something about it!

Girl: It says: knock down their churches, burn their books and get all those who wont give up this Christian stuff arrested!

Boy: Well what are we waiting for! Let's go!

Boy& Girl: Down with the Christians! Down with the Christians!

Narr: So all over Rome and other roman cities that is what happened. Many Christians were killed, their churches knocked down and their Bibles and books burned.

Dio: Brilliant Galarius, brilliant!

Gal: And you are really popular again your majesty.

Dio: Even better! Even better!

Narr: But what about George? Well he did all he could to help his fellow Christians. He warned them when trouble was on it's way. He helped them escape. He hid them when the people were looking for them. He did all he could to save as many Christians as possible. One day George went to the city of Nicomedia and in the city square he saw the edict from Diocletian on a notice board. George was angry and he tore the notice down and ripped it to pieces. Unfortunately though Diocletian and Galarius were visiting Nicomedia as well, and soon someone told someone who told someone who told Galarius all about what George had done. George knew it was just a matter of time before he was arrested so he gave away all his wealth to the poor.

Geo: Here you are, have my house.
Boy: But why?
Geo: Here you are, have all my money.
Girl: But why?
Narr: But the people soon found out why!
Gal: George is a Christian!
Boy: But he's a nice guy!
Gal: But he's a Christian!
Girl: But he's so handsome!
Gal: But he's a Christian!
B & G: But we like him!
Gal: But all Christians must either give up their belief or be arrested, so what do you say George?
Geo: Never! I'll never give up Jesus!
Gal: Take him to the Emperor. I'm sure the Diocletian can make him change his tune.
Boy: But!
Girl: But!
Gal: But he's a Christian!
Narr: So George was arrested and taken to the Emperor.
Dio: George, they say you are a Christian, is this right?
Geo: Yes Emperor, I believe in Jesus.
Dio: That's a very silly thing to say George, very silly indeed.
Geo: No it's not! It's the most sensible thing to say! Jesus died and rose again to show all of us how much God loves us. Jesus is my friend and believing in him is the best thing anyone can do. You can believe in him as well if you like your majesty.
Dio: That does it! Take him away!
Narr: So George was taken to prison and tortured. But no matter how much they tortured him he would not give up his faith in Jesus. In fact the more he was tortured the more faith he had because he could feel Jesus close to him even when he was in pain.
Geo: Thank you Jesus! Thank you!
Gal: It's no good Emperor Diocletian, he won't give up! I've tried everything.
Dio: Well unfortunately there is only one thing left then Galarius, only one thing left.
Narr: So George was beheaded on the 23rd April 303 in Nicodemia. But the Emperor Diocletian and Galarius's plan to get rid of the Christians didn't work! People saw how George and others happily died for Jesus and more and more people asked Jesus to be their friend and became Christians as well.