



LIVING WATER RIVER RAFTING COMPANY

Production Notes

A three-part serial skit used with the retreat theme "Rivers of Living Water."

SUMMARY: In Part 1, we meet a group of people preparing to take a guided rafting tour down the River of Life. We see their various personalities as each determines whether they want to take the trip. In Parts 2 and 3, we see the people on the raft, with their guide, facing various challenges as they travel together.

THEME: We are each traveling on the River of Life. The only safe way to travel is with a Guide and a Manual. And we need one another!

CHARACTERS AND COSTUMING:

Narrator normal; very solemn

Guide normal

Secretary normal; needs a phone, Kleenex and a Bible (manual)

Eddy dressed to the hilt outdoorsman; needs goggles; will need stuff to "get dirty" (*seaweed, leaves, dirt, etc*)

Ben Burned any way of looking "burned"

Lucy Lost disheveled look; carries a brown paper bag as she hyperventilates when she is having an anxiety attack;

Wendy WaterWing she's the "dumb blonde" personality; wears water wings; basically clueless about life. Needs goggles

Jackie Jet Ski jet ski (*could possibly use a scooter or skateboard*)

Hurting Holly carries inner tube or small floatie which is labeled "LOOKING FOR LOVE"; also needs crutch, bandaids, wraps, etc. to indicate injuries

Umbrella Belle carries umbrella, dressed a bit frilly, carries large make-up bag with contents as described in skit, including handkerchief, southern accent

Baby Christian carries a bottle, wears a bib or something to look like a baby

Headphone Heather wears headphones, dances to the music, likes to party

Tina Teacher normal

SETTING AND PROPS

Part 1 - Sign "Living Water River Rafting Company;" phone on secretary's desk; will need enough life preservers and Bibles for everyone taking the trip

Part 2 - eight chairs, set up in pairs, as if on a large raft. Bucket labeled "Grace and Mercy;" life preservers, helmets, Bibles, (2) oars

Part 3 - (same as Part II), several more oars



This is what someone on our team came up with to make for the life preservers. They are made of a simple strip of cloth about 15" wide and maybe a yard long. Folded in half, a circle was cut out for the neckline. Then it was cut open in the middle on one side. White strips sewed on each side, attaching front and back, made "straps." These looked like life preservers from the audience perspective.

Helmets used were donated bicycle helmets.

TIMING:

- Part 1 - 20-25 minutes
- Part 2 - 10 minutes
- Part 3 - 20-25 minutes



LIVING WATER RIVER RAFTING COMPANY

Part One - "Whosoever Will"

Scene One - At the River-Rafting Site, collecting passengers

(This scene is where others discuss ways to go down the River of Life, and why the Living Water River Rafting might be the only way to go (gospel message))

Narrator: Welcome to the River of Life. We're introduced to the river when we're born, and we die trying to find the end of it. Travel down the River of Life can be wonderful or terrible, full of anxiety or contentment, happy or sad, full of joy or mourning, war or peace, love or hate, losing or gaining. Tonight, we'll see a group of characters—maybe you'll see yourself-- and we'll look at their choices on their River of Life.

Guide: *(speaking to secretary)* Well, I spoke with the River Authority today, and have received the go-ahead for continuing down the River of Life with the rafting group.

Secretary: I'm sure there will be some new people who want to go. There seem to be a lot of people lingering in the area or camped along the River of Life.

Guide: I hope so...

(Telephone rings)

Secretary: Good morning. Living Water River Rafting....How may I help you? *(pause)* Yes, we have professional guides on staff with exceptional river skills and years of experience. *(pause)* Everything you need is furnished. Yes, we do guarantee that you make it to the destination. *(pause)* No ma'am, we're not the only company that makes that claim, but we are the only company where you are guaranteed to reach your destination of Eternal Life, and that guarantee is backed up by the Living Water River Authority. *(pause)* Yes, well--please stop in and check us out, OR you can look us up on the web at www.onewaytoEternalLife.com. Thanks for calling. Good-bye.

Guide: Well, I'll be back in a minute--I'm going to go do some final checks on our equipment. Don't forget that we need to make sure everyone understands the terms of the trip. Then we will issue the Life Preservers and get ready to embark on our journey. *(Guide leaves)*

(Eddy and Ben Burned stop by)

Eddy: Hi. I planning my trip down the River of Life, and thought I'd stop by and see what you had to offer.

Secretary: I'm glad you stopped by! We are the Living Water River Rafting Co., and we offer guided tours down the River of Life.

Eddy: Everyone has a gimmick! Why would you need a guided tour? Some people are out there now, just swimming down the river. It can't be that difficult. The weather is pleasant, and

river conditions don't seem too challenging. I think I'll be able to maneuver it on my own...I'm a strong swimmer. And I'm obviously prepared—I have all the latest gear...

(Guide walks in)

Guide: Did I hear you say that you're planning to swim on your own down the River of Life?

Eddy: Sure I am. Look at the people out there now. If they can do it, I surely can. Not only have I been training with weights--can you tell? *(she flexes her muscles)*, but I trained with our Olympic team this summer, even though I didn't get a medal in _____*(location of last summer Olympics)*.

Guide: Well the River of Life is a little different than a lap pool! And those people on the river now—how do you know they will make it where they are hoping to go? Look at how wide the river is at this point. You're right that it seems to be flowing fairly smoothly right now, but "wide is the way that leads to Destruction".

Eddy: Destruction?!! I'm not planning on going there!

Guide: Neither are those people—but that is where they are going to end up if they just follow the flow. Right now, they can just float with little effort, but there will be a fork in the river, and that narrow branch of the river leads to Eternal Life. Few find it. No one, and I mean NO ONE makes it to Eternal Life in their own efforts.

Eddy: Well, thanks for the warning. I'll be watching for that fork in the river. But I think I can do this my own way—I don't need a guide or a raft. *(Eddy leaves)* See you there! *(Eddy leaves stage but stays close and in front)*

Ben Burned: I've heard all about this company. I've tried other tours. I can't believe it is any different than any of the other guided tours down this river. I've sampled some of those other tours, and those guides don't know this river like they say they do. Some guides just collect your money and then bail out—and you're on your own. Others are sincere enough, but they just don't have a clue...

Guide: I can certainly understand your concerns, ma'am. The River of Life is lined with companies that offer alternative ways of getting down the river—but they can offer only empty promises. We guarantee to get you to your destination of Eternal Life—and we are the only true way there. The Living Water River Authority guarantees it. In fact, the River Authority created the Living Water River Rafting Company just to help people navigate the River of Life and make it to Eternal Life.

(Lucy Lost stumbles in, looking haggard)

Lucy Lost: Where am I?

Ben Burned: Another place that promises to get you down the river...

Secretary: *(glaring at Ben Burned for that comment)* Welcome to the Living Water River Rafting Company.

Lucy Lost: What's that?

Secretary: We offer guided tours down the River of Life.

Lucy Lost: I lost my way a long time ago on the River of Life. I've been stumbling around like a blind man. I'm confused, I'm scared, I get anxiety attacks! *(blows into brown paper sack as if hyperventilating)*

Guide: *(speaking to both Lucy Lost and Ben Burned)* This company was created so that your trip down the River of Life would be safe, secure and joyful. At the same time, we know where we are going, and we are pressing on to that goal.

Ben Burned: *(sarcastically, under her breath)* Oh, right, I've heard that before!

Lucy Lost: You sound like just what I have been needing...

Ben Burned: Hey, you look like a nice innocent kid—take it from me, these places are never what they seem...there's always a cost. *(to Secretary)* So, how much will your trip cost me?

Secretary: It is free when you accept the Life Preserver.

(Guide walks over to the Life Preservers - will be busy counting them after this next line)

Guide: The JC Life Preserver Company sponsors our rafting trips. They just want as many people as possible wearing their Life Preservers and are unwilling that any should perish. They pay the price, and we wear their Life Preservers.

Ben Burned: Are you saying that all we have to do is accept the Life Preserver, and we can take the guided raft tour down the river? And it's guaranteed? Maybe I will give it a shot.

Lucy Lost: Me too, it sounds like what I need!

Secretary: You've made a wise choice. We will issue you the Life Preserver, and you will go down the river on our raft. We leave tomorrow. You won't regret your decision.

(Wendy WaterWing arrives, wearing water wings)

Wendy WaterWing: Duh, what's this? Is this a concession stand?

Secretary: No, this is the Living Water River Rafting Company. We schedule guided river-rafting trips down the River of Life.

Wendy WaterWing: Oh, I'm just planning to "wing it"...I take the River of Life as it comes. So far, that's been fine for me. I don't like to plan too far ahead.

Secretary: Do you know where you are going? What is your final destination?

Wendy WaterWing: I just like to go with the flow!

Secretary: Aren't you worried about the pollution in this river?

Wendy WaterWing: Naaa...Unless I swallow it, the pollution won't affect me.... Besides *(pulling out goggles)* these should help. Bye! *(Wendy WaterWing heads off stage)*

(Jackie Jet Ski motors by on her Jet Ski, stops to talk to the people at the rafting company)

Jackie Jet Ski: Is this the Living Water River Company? Am I too late to sign up for your next tour?

Secretary: Not at all. We received the go-ahead today to continue the rafting tour down the River of Life, so as soon as we have our passengers, the guide will ready our group to be taking off tomorrow.

Jackie Jet Ski: Did you say rafting?!! This is a rafting company? You guys are planning to raft down the River of Life? That will take forever...Who would consider a raft when there are jet skis available? I've really taken a liking to this jet ski...it fills my "need for speed"! (*revs the motor—vroom! Vroom!*) My jet ski takes me down the river in the "fast lane"—I like living life that way. You could call me part of the "jet set".

Secretary: This is a rafting company—we only schedule rafting tours. If you want, you could take a look at our manual until our guide can speak with you. (*Hands Jackie Jet Ski a Bible*)

Jackie Jet Ski: Wow...that looks like a big book of rules to me. I take it that people on your rafting tour don't like to have fun. Maybe that's OK for them (*looks disdainfully at the others*) but Me...I like to be free, to be spontaneous. I don't need or want someone telling me what to do and when to do it.

Secretary: Don't judge that book until you have read it! Everything in there is written to ensure the well-being of the traveller down the River of Life. (*motioning Guide over*) This individual is worried about the rules in our manual. She's planning on taking that jet ski down the river.

Guide: Ma'am, there's great danger in going down the river on a jet ski. In a raft, there is time to make course corrections if you see danger ahead. On a jet ski, you are going too fast to be aware of the dangers. You have no warnings...

Jackie Jet Ski: I'll take my chances. (*to everyone*) This is probably the last time I'll see you—eat my dust! You all can rock in my wake. Bye! (*revs off; passes Eddy and Wendy WaterWing, and then stops*)

(*Hurting Holly limps in, with a crutch, big bandages, holding a float labelled "Looking for Love"*)

HurtingHolly: (*almost crying*) Is this the Living Water River Rafting Company?

Ben Burned: What happened to you?

Hurting Holly: I've been on this river over twenty-five years now...the River of Life has not been good to me. I've been bruised, scraped and scarred and ...(starts to cry - secretary hands her a Kleenex) People who were supposed to care for me have abused me...

Guide: I have been telling these people that the River of Life is an eight-point river. It can be very dangerous at places.

Hurting Holly: This float has been with me all my life, and it has failed to bring me safely down the river. I feel betrayed.

Guide: Many people have tried going down the river on a float just like yours, looking for love, and they end up hurt and disillusioned.

Hurting Holly: How is your raft any different?

Guide: Well, first and foremost, our sponsor provides you with the Life Preserver. Putting it on surrounds you with that love and security you are looking for.

Hurting Holly: Can you promise that I will never get hurt again?

Guide: No, I don't promise that. But I can promise that when you hurt, you will be comforted, and your suffering will have meaning and purpose on your trip on the River of Life.

Hurting Holly: I think I'll try it.

Guide: Wonderful. I don't think you'll regret it.

(Guide goes over to count helmets; Baby Christian arrives, clapping hands, hopping, etc.)

BabyChristian: I am ready to ride! Where's the raft? I want my Life Preserver! I'm bringing my bottle—hope you have plenty of milk!

Secretary: Why do you need a bottle, little one?

BabyChristian: Well, milk is all that I can drink right now. I'm just SO HAPPY to be a part of this rafting trip. Isn't it neat?? *(takes note of guide, gasps in wonder, speaks excitedly)* Is that Noah? Will we see a whale? Can I walk on water soon? Are there any mountains to move along this river?

Guide: Settle down. I'm glad to see you so eager and excited—and you haven't even started on your journey yet. Let's take one step at a time. I'm glad you're going with us. You're going to learn a lot on this trip!

(Umbrella Belle bustles in)

Umbrella Belle: I do declare, that sun is mighty hot today—almost enough to make a lady "glisten" *(pats her nose and neck with a dainty handkerchief)*

Secretary: I believe that you are continuing your trip, is that right?

Umbrella Belle: That right, dear. I think I have everything I need *(checks her bag)*... I have my sun block, oh, my miniature fan—that should help me to be comfortable...oh, here's my moisturizer! That's important. This journey down the River of Life can bring wrinkles, I've heard. Oh, my mirror—*(she looks at herself)* I only have a few very fine lines around my eyes—thank goodness I also have my coverup! I sure hope that the raft isn't too crowded today.

Secretary: Remember, the Guide provides everything that you need for this trip.

Umbrella Belle: Oh, Honeychild, ya'll don't know half the things I need... Why, I need a suitcase to carry it all!

(HeadphoneHeather "dances" into the rafting company, headphones on, chewing gum)

Secretary: Can I help you? *(repeats it to her face)* Can I help you?

HeadphoneHeather: Huh?

Secretary: Can I help you?

HeadphoneHeather: Oh, yeah. I'm here for the rafting trip. No one minds if I bring along my own tunes, do they? This journey down the River of Life would be "BOR-ING" without some "rad jams".

Secretary: Rad jams??? I think you're going to have a hard time hearing...

HeadphoneHeather: What? You talking to me?

Secretary: Yes...I said that I think you are going to have a hard time hearing your guide and doing what he asks you to do with your music distracting you.

HeadphoneHeather: I never go anywhere without my headphones. I hope you have TV and movies on this trip too. We want to have something to do in our free time!

Secretary: Are you sure that our rafting trip is what you are looking for?

HeadphoneHeather: Oh yeah. I want that cool Life Preserver, and I want to get to Eternal Life. But I don't want to miss out on any of the fun stuff on the River either. I live for parties. Does the raft stop for parties?

Secretary: *(just nods her head as if giving up)*

Guide: Could I have your attention? We'll be starting our rafting journey tomorrow morning. Umbrella Belle here is continuing her trip, and tomorrow you will meet Tina Teacher. I want to give everyone the equipment they will need to start the journey. Since you have chosen to float with us, we issue each of you a Life Preserver. *(hands out life preservers)* I also have helmets and manuals here. Take one of each before you leave tonight. Please study your River Rafting Emergency Manual diligently. When we hit rough waters or become aware of upcoming dangers, we need to be ready and already know the River Authority Emergency procedures.

Baby: We need to know it all in one night???

Guide: No, we'll be studying our Manual along the way also. Tina Teacher will direct some of those studies on our trip. But try to get a start on the reading tonight.

Headphone Heather: Dude! No studying for me! Has the class been taped?

Lucy Lost: *(gasps)* Why would we need a helmet? To protect us from something? *(blows into her paper bag as if hyperventilating)*

Umbrella Belle: Honey, that dreadful helmet just ruins your hairdo, but believe me, you'll be glad you're wearing it!

Hurting Holly: *(as she puts on her Life Preserver)* You're right about this Life Preserver—I feel surrounded by love and security!

Narrator: We've just met quite a few people on this river. We've heard their concerns, seen their choices. Perhaps you identify with one of these characters tonight. Are you, like Wendy WaterWing, just winging it in life, willing to go where the current of the world takes you? Or are you living fast and dangerously, like Jackie Jet Ski, with no eye to the future? Have you been relying on your own strength in this life, like Eddy? Or stumbling fearfully through life like Lucy Lost? Like Holly Hurting, has your search for love driven you to Jesus? Are afraid that He will disappoint you too? Or, are you searching for what Jesus offers, but leery like Ben Burned because you have been burned before?

Maybe you're already a Christian, but you want the best of the world. Is worldly entertainment distracting you from a committed walk with the Lord like Headphone Heather? Or perhaps, like Umbrella Belle, your focus on yourself is keeping you from focusing on Him. Is Jesus calling you to take a different path down the River of Life?

Part 2 "Many Members but One Raft"

Scene 2 - In the Raft, Beginning the Journey

(In this scene, we have a group of rafters ready to go, and the guide describes the trip, equipment needed, and gives them each a "job" (discuss gifts))

Narrator: We're back at the Living Water River Rafting Company. The River Authority has given them permission to proceed down the River of Life, and this morning they have already boarded the raft.

Guide: Good morning everyone. We're getting ready to push off here as we continue our journey down the River of Life.

Baby: I'm so excited!!! Let's get going!

Guide: Most of you are new to this trip. I want you to meet Tina Teacher. She arrived this morning and is continuing her trip.

Tina Teacher: Hi, everyone.

Everyone: Hi, Tina!

Guide: Does everyone have the equipment that we checked out to you? Do you have your Life Preserver on? Do you have a helmet? Do you have your manual? I hope you took time to study it last night.

Umbrella Belle: Dear me, I was having a good hair day before I put this helmet on....but *(looks at Guide)* I'm not complaining....

HeadphoneHeather: How am I going to wear my helmet and my headphones?? *(she finds a way—put headphones on upsidetown)*

Ben Burned: This helmet makes me feel like we're wearing armor.

Guide: Well, that's true. In a manner of speaking, you are. Although the River Authority is aware of all the conditions on this river, when we are on the River of Life, we are struggling against unseen powers, rulers of darkness on the River of Life, spiritual wickedness in high places. You have an enemy that doesn't want to see you reach your destination safely.

Lucy Lost: I feel another attack coming on...where's my bag? *(breathes into bag as if hyperventilating)*

Guide: Let me begin by telling you a little bit about this river. Although right now the River of Life seems to be flowing with no obstacles, I need you to know that the River of Life is an 8-point river—that means it is dangerous. It will be a challenging trip even on the raft, and we need to be alert and aware. Even if things look safe, there could be hidden dangers. If I take you through some rough areas or white water, that's because it was part of the plan for your trip. All course corrections are planned in advance. You are safe with your Life Preserver. You will need to follow my instructions and any procedures outlined in your Manual. But you don't need to be afraid, because I am with you.

Tina Teacher: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

HeadphoneHeather: What?

Lucy Lost: Our raft isn't full—isn't anyone else coming?

Guide: We don't want our raft full. *(notices Umbrella Belle's bag)* Umbrella Belle, are you still carrying that big handbag of yours? *(Umbrella Belle tries to hide it)(Guide nods his head and continues...)* Down the river, we may run into people who will need our help, and we'll need to have room to take them on, if they choose to accept our offer.

Holly Hurting: I bet we'll run into a lot of people who are trying to use the same floatie I was trying to use.

Guide: Now, I have a job assignment for each of you

All passengers, in unison: A job???

Guide: We call it a job—you could think of it as a gift. It helps us all to work together beneficially. I will make sure each of you on this raft gets a "gift" - and the more you use it, the smoother our trip will be.

Umbrella Belle: I hope my assignment is to take care of me—it's about all I can get done in a day!

Hurting Holly: I hope I can do it—I feel so weak.

Tina Teacher: "Let the weak say 'I am strong'"

Headphone Heather: Do you need a party coordinator?

Ben Burned: I thought this trip was free.

Guide: These jobs are not in payment for the trip—we do this to help one another get down the river as comfortably and as successfully as possible. As we do our jobs, we strengthen one another for the journey, and as a result we are all built up in our trip on the River of Life.

I need you and you *(HeadphoneHeather and Lucy Lost)* to take an oar and work in the rear of the raft. Your "helps" will keep our boat on course. You *(Ben Burned)* need to watch over our baby. Your "encouragement" and example will be an important part of helping her to grow. You *(Umbrella Belle)* will watch for rocks and other dangers of the River. Your "discernment" will help us to avoid unseen perils.

All of you will especially need to pay attention when we encounter rough times and white water. *(going over to Headphones, and takes headphones off ears)* You will not be able to hear my voice and my direction with all of that distraction.

Headphone Heather: *(disappointed)* Ooh. I always do my work with my headphones. Really, the music will keep my rowing in rhythm!

Guide: Sorry...it won't work this time. *(Heather leaves headphones off...)*

Hurting Holly: What should I do?

Guide: I want you to be our nurse. You will have great compassion and mercy on those who are hurting, because you have been where they are.

BabyChristian: Me! Me! What about ME?!!

Guide: While you're so young right now, I just want you to spread some of your joy around.

BenBurned: I really don't think this is my gift—watching over a baby? I never liked babysitting.

BabyChristian: Hey!

Ben Burned: Now I think I'd like to use that oar and row. That's a better gift than mine. I want that instead. I'd even prefer watching for rocks to taking care of the baby...

Baby Christian: Hey! *(offended)*

Umbrella Belle: Just sit here and watch for rocks? I wish I had a more exciting gift!

Lucy Lost: Maybe there are other people in this river who would PAY me to use my gift...I do have quite a useful gift... Couldn't hurt to make a profit... I'll keep my eyes open...

Narrator: Our characters have a lot to learn about their part in navigating the raft down the River of Life. But their Guide is patient. He has given them the gifts He wants them to have, the gifts that are perfect for them in the place He has them. As they begin their travel down the river, they will learn to depend more fully on their Guide, to work with each other, and appreciate their accomplishments as a team.

Part 3 "Count It All Joy"

Scene 3 - Encounters on the River of Life

(In this scene, the journey begins, and we see our rafters encountering all sorts of challenges; we also see them encountering some others who are trying to make their journey down the River of Life—somewhat unsuccessfully)

(Lucy Lost and HeadphoneHeather are busy rowing. Ben Burned is playing with Baby Christian. Everyone is doing their job.)

Narrator: Our travelers have made good time on their trip down the River of Life. They are learning to work together and appreciate their different gifts. They are realizing more and more their dependence upon their Guide.

Headphone Heather: This trip has been fairly uneventful lately. Couldn't I listen to my music for a while now?

Tina Teacher: No, your headphones will distract you. Our manual stresses the importance being alert and watching...

Guide: I want everyone to stay alert. When things have been going smoothly as they have been recently, it is easy to let your guard down, and that is how you get in trouble.

Lucy Lost: *(she points toward Eddy who is going in circles)* Hey, look over there! Is that guy stuck in a whirlpool? *(calling out from raft)* Hey! Are you OK?

Eddy: *(swimming/walking in a large, fast circle)* Vanity and emptiness! I've worked so hard to get down this River of Life, and what profit is it? The sun rises here *(points to the east)* and the sun goes down here *(points to the west)*, the river keeps running to the south...then turns toward the north. It whirls continually, day after day. And I'm stuck here. Every day is the same. There's nothing new under the sun.

Guide: You don't have to remain there...trapped in that whirlpool. We have room for you on the raft. You can accept the Life Preserver and be safe, but it's your choice. I will not force you to accept the Life Preserver.

Eddy: *(climbing on the raft)* You know, I thought I could make it down the River of Life on my own. All this stuff *(her equipment)* was worthless. But what you are offering sounds good right now. Hand me that Life Preserver.

(Eddy puts on life preserver and hops in the raft)

Umbrella Belle *(comes to life):* Oh...Oh no, uh, I see...Oh no! There's a rock of temptation ahead. Go this way *(she points--everyone leans, esp. oarsmen)* Oh my, that was too close. Whew!

Baby Christian: What's that?

Ben Burned: What?

BabyChristian: That! *(pointing toward a swimmer (Wendy Waterwings) who doesn't appear to be doing so well)*

Ben Burned: It looks like a swimmer, but she's not doing very well.

Lucy Lost: Hello over there! Do you need some help? *(it is Wendy Waterwing with goggles on, very dirty, pollution from river hanging on her)*

Wendy WaterWing: *(trying to make sense of the raft through her dirty goggles)* Who's there? I can't see too well. Can you see me? Can you reach me?

Guide: This is a raft from the Living Water River Rafting Company. It looks like you need some assistance.

Wendy WaterWing: Well, winging it down this River of Life sure isn't what I expected. I feel so dirty. I've gotten trapped in the pollution in this river a couple times on this trip. And it's impossible to get clean—believe me, I've tried.

Tina Teacher: Beloved, with God, nothing is impossible.

Baby Christian: Hey don't worry about that—we've got this bucket full of mercy and grace. We can get you cleaned up in no time.

Guide: If you want to join us on our journey, you need not be concerned with getting cleaned up first. You can come on the raft, just as you are.

Wendy WaterWing: I can't believe that you'd let me on the raft like this--I'm so FILTHY! You have no idea what I've been in. Are you sure?

Tina Teacher: The River Authority isn't concerned with where you've been. It's no mistake that you are here at this time. Please...take the Guide's offer and accept the Life Preserver. It will be the best decision you've ever made!

Wendy WaterWing: *(Wendy WaterWing pauses, looks at the Guide, then takes the Guide's hand as he lifts her onto the raft)* Thank you. *(Guide starts cleaning her off with a big bucket of grace and mercy)* How can I pay for this ride? I have no money.

Guide: It's free. You need only trust in the Life Preserver.

Wendy WaterWing: *(Guide takes off her dirty goggles)* Oh, I can see again. I'll be so glad to get these water wings off—I'm chafing! *(Tina Teacher brings her a Life Preserver)* *(to guide)* I'm so grateful that you saved me--the pollution on the River was more overpowering and overwhelming than I ever expected.

Lucy Lost: Hey, isn't that "Get Rich Quick" canyon? I've heard about it all my life and have been trying to find it, and now here it is. I want to try it!

Guide: That is a dangerous place. *(Lucy get her bag out as if she may need to blow in it...)* First of all, it gets you off course, and there is a waterfall there that can be disastrous. Your focus will become surviving that wild branch of the river. And of course, you could get hurt or have trouble finding your way back.

Lucy Lost: But I'll still be wearing my Life Preserver *(puts her bag down)*. It's just that I've always dreamed of being rich! I've always wanted to be a Millionaire.

Ben Burned: *(in a very ho-hum negative tone)* Oh...who wants to be a millionaire?

Headphone Heather: I love that show...is there a TV on this raft?

Lucy Lost: Maybe I'll see Regis there!

Guide: No amount of riches you find in that canyon will satisfy you. Please stay here—we need you.

Tina Teacher: Lucy, where your treasure is, that is where your heart is. True contentment can be found only in knowing that the River Authority will provide for all your needs.

Lucy Lost: *(talking aloud to herself, convincing herself)* But, if I make it, I'll give 10% of my profits to the River Authority. After all, He's the one who's brought me here. Surely He's not against me becoming wealthy. It will benefit all of us! Let's see—what are my options? I guess I could (a) stay her and try to be content...or (b) I could stay on the raft and wonder for the rest of my life if I missed the opportunity of a lifetime... or (c) I could head to the Canyon and run into all this trouble they're warning me about...OR (d) I could be a millionaire! *(to Guide)* I've made my decision--I want to be a millionaire, and that's my final answer! I'll meet up with you again. *(drops oar and dives off the boat)*

HeadphoneHeather: *(now only one rowing)* Hey, I can't do this by myself.

Guide: *(Picks up oar and gives it to Eddy).* Will you please take over for her?

Umbrella Belle: What's that? Over by that rock wall? It almost looks like a motorcycle—OH NO! A jet ski has wrecked over there!

Eddy: Wow, she passed me days ago—looked right at me and zipped on past!

Wendy WaterWing: I saw her too. She was driving that jet ski fast and reckless. I barely got out of her way in time. No wonder she crashed and burned.

HurtingHolly: Oh, we need to see how we can help her. She must be hurting.

Guide: Let's head the raft to the east, and see if we can get close to her. *(leaning over the raft)* Would you like my help?

Jackie Jet Ski: I don't know what happened. I didn't see it coming. My jet ski spun out of control. I think my wrists are broken.

Guide: That's ONE of the dangers of rejecting the rafting ride. Going down the River of Life as fast and recklessly as you were always ends in shipwreck.

Jackie Jet Ski: That raft looks mighty good after the ride I've had.

Guide: It's better than good. Putting on the LifePreserver and following the plan of the River Authority outlined in this manual *(holds up manual)* ...is the only way to travel safely down the River of Life. And I will always be with you, guiding you all the way, until you reach the end of your journey.

Jackie Jet Ski: You make it sound so simple. But I am ready for a change in my life. No way I'm taking that jet ski any farther down the River of Life. The fast life really doesn't have that much to offer. There's no rest...no peace. That's what I need.

Tina Teacher: Let me get you a manual. After you've put the Life Preserver on, you can read all about rest and the peace that the River Authority wants you to experience. He wants to give you every good thing. And staying on the raft with your guide assures you of reaching Eternal Life.

Guide: Here—Let me help you in. *(gives her a LifePreserver)*

(Lost swims desperately up)

BabyChristian: She's back! She's back!

Umbrella Belle (*looking up from her mirror*): Who? Where?

BabyChristian: There!

Lucy Lost (*grabs side of boat, crying but happy*): I made it back! I made it! Thank you!

Jackie Jet Ski: (*helps her in raft*) Who are you? Didn't I see you trying to navigate to "Get Rich Quick Canyon"?

Baby Christian: Did you make it? Are you a millionaire?

Lucy Lost: No, but I saw what I needed to see. Get Rich Quick Canyon was not what I expected it to be. First of all, it was a dark canyon. Moths were everywhere. But as my eyes adjusted, I saw so many people who had been there and crashed either against the rock of financial success or the wall of financial ruin. Talk about anxiety attacks! And no one seemed satisfied or content. No one helped each other. I never thought I would make it back here. (*looking at the Guide*) You tried to warn me, but I didn't listen. I'm so sorry.

Guide: I forgive you. Let's wash you off (*using bucket of grace and mercy*)

Tina Teacher: The manual says that the rich will run into rocks of temptation, and traps, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which can drown men.

Lucy Lost: I could have drowned. I know that now. I'm so glad to be back on the raft with all of you. I never want to wander away again. I'm going to study that manual every day, and I'm going to listen to you (*looking at Guide*) from now on.

Headphone Heather: We need to celebrate, don't we? (*hopeful*)

Umbrella Belle: (*pointing excitedly*) Slow down, I see something! Oh, it's a fork in the river... (*panicked*) but that branch of the river is so narrow...

Guide: Good, Belle! That's where we're headed, folks. That branch empties into the Crystal Sea at the destination of Eternal Life. Let's get the raft turned. Dig it! (*Eddy and Heather work their oars deeper for the turn, and everyone leans to the right*)

Eddy: Oh, no! (*uses binoculars*) There is whitewater ahead. We're going to get jostled around big-time—you guys aren't experienced enough for this.

Lost: (*blows into brown bag as if hyperventilating*)

Guide: Don't panic. This course change is part of the plan, and the River Authority was well aware of the whitewater we would encounter. I want everyone to continue to work together, doing your job. Follow my lead.

Tina Teacher: Remember, count it all joy when you encounter white water... You will learn things in these rapids that you could never learn anywhere else. Your faith will grow strong in the rapids, and you will learn patience and endurance.

Baby Christian: We can make it! I know we can! The manual says so!

Jackie Jet Ski: What's my job?

Guide: Umbrella Belle is watching for rocks. I want you to watch for problems in the raft. Your words of wisdom will help us to make it through the white water safely.

Wendy WaterWing: What about me?

Guide: You will help Jackie Jet Ski with your words of knowledge.

Lucy Lost: *(to the Guide)* Do you want me to take an oar again?

Guide: Yes, for the white water we will need an oarsman in the front.

Umbrella Belle: Watch out, there's a couple big rocks to avoid. Go right! Whew!

Oh no! Go left!

Headphone Heather: My feet are wet—does that mean anything?

Wendy WaterWing: Yes, that means that we are taking on water. What should we do?

Jackie Jet Ski: Start bailing!

Lucy Lost: Where's my bag? I think I'm going to need it?

Tina Teacher: Please remain calm. The River Authority has assured us that "Even though the waters roar and are troubled, don't be afraid, for God is with you."

Guide: We're going to have to lighten the load and rebalance the raft if we are all going to be safe!

Wendy WaterWing: I think Belle's bag there is weighing us down.

Jackie Jet Ski: Shouldn't that bag *(pointing to Umbrella Belle's bag)* be tossed overboard?

Umbrella Belle: *(highly distressed)* Not my bag! Everything I need is in there!

Guide: I'm sorry, Belle, I think it has to go.

Tina Teacher: Belle, please remember what the River Authority said about bringing luggage.

The manual says "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us". Do you trust Him, Belle?

Umbrella Belle: Yes, yes I do! *(tosses her bag overboard)*

Hurting Holly: *(going over to Belle)* Are you OK?

Eddy: *(rowing hard in the back, takes a look through the binoculars again)* We're almost through. We're going to make it!

Headphone Heather: This calls for a party!

Umbrella Belle: Oh, Heather. I'm too weary for a party. This trip is longer than I thought it was going to be.

Headphone Heather: Yeah! I'm getting impatient.

BabyChristian: Are we there yet?

(others express discouragement)

Eddy: I'm burning up in this heat!

Jackie Jet Ski: This rowing is not exactly easy, you know?

Wendy WaterWing: No kidding! I feel like I'm going to faint.

Guide: Let's not get weary in well doing.

Tina Teacher: "In due season we will reap if we don't faint"

Guide: *(pointing ahead)* Heads up, Rafters! Look ahead! We are getting a glimpse of our destination, Eternal Life.

All: Where? Where? Oh, I see it! Where? There!

Lucy Lost: But there are probably more challenges and dangers between here and there...

Guide: I would say you are right. *(Lucy grabs her bag)*

Tina Teacher: Think of what we've been through already. Our Guide has led us every inch of the way. Did He ever leave us? Even for one second? *(everyone nods "no")* Our manual tells us that He will never leave us nor forsake us. He doesn't want us to worry about anything. The River Authority is in control. His ways are not our ways, but He knows best the way to get us to our destination. The manual says that when we go through deep waters and great trouble, He will be with us. When we go through rivers of difficulty, we will not drown!

Guide: This rafting trip hasn't been easy so far, has it? But our destination is ahead. We've been through a lot on this trip, but it is nothing compared to what is ahead for us! Let's forget what we've been through, those things which are behind, and reach to those things which are before us. Let's press on toward that goal!

(Everyone grabs an oar and goes for it!)

Narrator: The curtain goes down on our cast of characters, rafting down the River of Life. They're going to make it, we know that, as long as they stick with their Guide. The trials they face are going to make them stronger. They won't drown with their Life Preservers on. Hopefully, they are going to encounter others that they can persuade to join them on their raft, and they will work together toward that great goal and calling. That glimpse of the glory that awaits them will help them to keep their perspective. Oh, yes, they're going to make it. It will be an abundant entrance to Eternal Life!

THE END