

# The Story of St. Francis

## Characters:

- Narrator – Fr. Joe
  - Francis
  - Father (Pietro)
  - Bishop
  - Villagers (2-3 kids)
  - Birds/Animals (can be multiple kids acting as different animals)
  - Sick Person
  - Poor Person
  - Leper
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## Francis as a Young Man

*(Francis is standing, looking proud and wealthy. His Father, Pietro, stands next to him.)*

**Narrator:** Long ago, in a town called Assisi, there lived a young man named Francis. He was the son of a wealthy merchant named Pietro. Francis loved to have fun and spend money on parties and clothes.

**Father (Pietro):** Francis, you must keep our family business going! You need to sell fine cloth and make us even richer.

**Francis:** *(proudly)* I will, Father! I will be the richest and most powerful man in Assisi!

*(Villagers enter, greeting Francis.)*

**Villager 1:** Francis, you are so lucky to be rich! We want to be like you.

**Villager 2:** Yes! We wish we had all the things you have.

**Francis:** *(smiling)* Life is good when you have lots of money!

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## Francis Hears God's Voice

*(Francis kneels as if praying in a quiet place. The Villagers exit.)*

**Narrator:** But one day, something changed in Francis' heart. He went off alone to pray, and he heard God's voice calling him.

**God's Voice (Narrator):** Francis, rebuild my church, which you see is falling to ruin around you.

**Francis:** *(looking around, confused)* What do you mean, God? How can I rebuild your church?

**Narrator:** Francis didn't understand yet, but he knew he had to follow God's voice.

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## Francis Cares for the Poor and Sick

*(Francis walks through the streets of Assisi. A Poor Person and a Sick Person enter.)*

**Narrator:** As Francis followed God's call, he began to see the suffering of the poor and the sick. He knew he had to help them.

**Sick Person:** *(coughing, weakly)* Francis, we have nothing. No food, no medicine. Can you help us?

**Poor Person:** We are hungry and cold. Please show us kindness.

**Francis:** *(compassionately)* Of course! I will care for you, my brothers and sisters. *(Gives the Poor and Sick Person his cloak)* Take this, and I will bring you food and comfort.

**Narrator:** Francis gave away everything he had to help the poor and the sick, showing them love and care.

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## The Trial Before the Bishop

*(Francis stands before the Bishop and his Father. Pietro is angry, and the Bishop looks serious.)*

**Narrator:** But Francis' father was not happy. He had given Francis money to use for the family business, but Francis had given it all away to the poor. So, his father took him to the Bishop for a trial.

**Father (Pietro):** *(angrily)* Bishop, my son is wasting all my money! He gives it away to beggars and the church! He should be working to make our family rich, but he refuses. I demand justice!

**Bishop:** *(calmly)* Francis, what do you say to these accusations? Have you given away your father's money?

**Francis:** *(humbly)* Yes, Bishop. I have given away everything I have because I want to follow Jesus. I don't want riches anymore. I want to live in poverty, like Christ.

**Father (Pietro):** *(shouting)* Then you are no longer my son! You bring shame to our family!

**Narrator:** The Bishop was moved by Francis' words and knew that Francis' heart was filled with love for God.

**Bishop:** Francis, if you no longer wish to have your father's wealth, then let it be so. You will be free to live as you choose.

**Francis:** *(taking off his cloak and handing it to his Father)* Father, I give you back everything. From now on, God is my only Father.

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## Francis Preaches to the Birds/Animals

*(Children dressed as different animals—birds, squirrels, sheep—enter and gather around Francis.)*

**Narrator:** After Francis gave up his wealth, he lived simply, caring for the poor and preaching to all of God's creatures. Even the animals would come to listen to him.

**Francis:** *(speaking to the animals)* Dear animals, God loves you too! You are His creatures, and He watches over you.

**Birds/Animals:** We hear you, Francis!

God is good!

Thank you, Francis!

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## Francis and the Leper

*(Francis walks through a forest. A Leper enters, looking weak and ill. Francis hesitates but then moves toward him.)*

**Narrator:** One day, Francis met a leper. In those days, lepers were outcasts. No one wanted to go near them, for fear of catching their disease. But Francis was different.

**Leper:** *(sadly)* No one will come near me. I am alone and forgotten.

**Francis:** *(pausing, then approaching the Leper)* You are not alone. God loves you, and so do I. *(Embraces the Leper)*

**Narrator:** Francis did not fear the leper. He showed him love and care, even when others would run away.

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## Francis' Legacy

*(Francis stands with the animals, villagers, and the leper.)*

**Narrator:** Francis lived his life caring for others, loving the poor, the sick, and all of God's creation. He showed us that it's not riches or power that bring happiness, but kindness, humility, and peace.

**Villager 1:** Thank you, Francis, for teaching us to care for the world and each other.

**Villager 2:** We will remember your lessons forever.

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## Ending:

**Narrator:** And so, St. Francis became a friend to everyone—people, animals, and all of God's creatures. Let's remember his example today, by loving the world around us and caring for it, just as he did.