THE FLAMES OF RAJAPURAM

A Skit on the Witness of the Five Jesus Youth Missionaries

Run Time: Approx. 7 minutes
Setting: A simple stage divided into two areas by lighting. Left stage represents the Mission field/Prayer space (features a small altar or large wooden cross). Right stage represents the Bus/Eternity space.
Cast of Characters - The Narrator: Grounded, solemn, yet deeply inspiring, Roy: Radiant, selfless, and bold. A natural leader, Rajani: Deeply spiritual, gentle, and reflective, Shiji: Joyful, intuitive, and deeply attached to her family, Reena: Cheerful, expressive, and full of faith, Bindu: Childlike, innocent, and always clutching her rosary.
Optional Extras: Bus passengers, angry villager, Shiji's mother (or these lines can be delivered off-stage via voiceover).

SCENE 1: The Fire of Prayer

(Stage is dim. The Narrator stands center-stage under a soft spotlight. Roy, Rajani, Shiji, Reena, and Bindu are kneeling on left-stage facing a cross. They are holding small electric candles, unlit.)
Narrator: There are stories we read, and stories we forget. But once in a generation, a story touches something eternal. This is the true story of five young Jesus Youth missionaries from Kerala: Roy, Rajani, Reena, Shiji, and Bindu. In March 2001, they stepped into the hills of Rajapuram for a mission. They didn't bring grand plans. They brought a Bible, a water bottle, a rosary, and a heart ready to love.

(Music swells softly: A reflective instrumental hymn. On left-stage, the youth lift their faces.)

Roy: (Whispering passionately) Use us, Lord… Make our hearts clean… Make our hands instruments of peace.

Rajani: Even if my body fails, Lord, do not let the prayer stop.

Narrator: The mission was hard. The paths were dusty, the heat scorching. In one home, broken by years of hatred and bitterness, the youth begged for reconciliation. While others spoke, Roy did something else.

(Acting Direction: Roy steps away from the group, moves center-stage, and drops heavily onto his knees on the bare floor, lifting his hands high.)

Narrator: He knelt outside on the sharp gravel road, lifting his hands in prayer. The stones pierced his knees; his skin tore open, and blood soaked the earth. But he did not rise. Inside the house, a hardened heart broke open at the sight. Years of hatred dissolved into tears. It wasn't grand preaching—it was love offered through pain.

(Roy stands up slowly, a peaceful smile on his face, and rejoins the group.)

Reena: (Looking out at the audience, smiling) People ask us, "Where is God? We cannot see Him." I tell them: Have you seen the wind? No. But you have felt it. God is exactly like that.

SCENE 2: The Departure and The Prophecy

(The youth stand up, pick up small backpacks, and move to right-stage. They sit in pairs on chairs arranged like bus seats. Bindu holds a physical rosary tightly. Rajani looks slightly anxious.)

Narrator:
March 11, 2001. The mission was complete. The youth were exhausted, but their hearts were overflowing. They boarded a crowded bus to head home.

Roy: (Turning to the girls) You all fought well. If I died today, my life would feel complete. God gave us a mission, and He let us finish it.

Bindu: (Clutching her rosary, whispering) Anna… do you think anything will happen to us on this road?

Roy: (Gently patting her shoulder) Nothing will happen except what God allows, Bindu. And whatever He allows will only lead us straight to Him.

(Acting Direction: Shiji suddenly looks distant, turning to face the audience as if speaking to her mother far away.)

Shiji: Before I left, I held my mother's feet. I told her, "Amma, someone is calling me." I sat on her lap and told her, "Amma, this warmth… I won't get it again."

Rajani: (Interrupting the heavy mood gently) Come on, let's not stop the rosary. Keep praying.

(The five youth begin to whisper the Hail Mary together in unison. A low rumble sound effect plays—the sound of a bus engine. Suddenly, an off-stage voice or a passenger extra speaks out urgently.)

Voice Over / Passenger: "Children, keep praying! Don't stop! Praise Jesus loudly!"

SCENE 3: The Altar of Fire

(The sound effect of a crashing bus plays—a loud screech and a thud. The youth jar violently in their seats. Red lights suddenly flash across the stage. Chaos ensued. The youth stand up rapidly, moving closer together.)

Narrator:
A cracked axle. A steep slope. Within seconds, the bus slammed and toppled onto its side. Then—the fire erupted.

(Acting Direction: Staging the sacrifice. Roy immediately uses his body to simulate pushing people open through an imaginary window.)

Narrator: The front door was blocked by flames. Roy sprang into action, lifting strangers, pushing them through broken windows to safety. He could have escaped easily. He chose to stay back.

Shiji: (Falling to her knees, trapping her legs, screaming with immense emotion) Ammaaaaaa!

Roy: (Reaching down, helping Bindu slide out of the imaginary window) Go, Bindu! At least you are safe, my child…

(Roy, Rajani, Shiji, and Reena group tightly together center-stage. The red lights intensify. Instead of screaming in pain, they switch on their electric candles, holding them high, looking up at the sky with radiant, joyful faces.)

The Four (Roy, Rajani, Shiji, Reena): (Shouting together with absolute joy and triumph) Thank You Jesus! Praise You Jesus! Hallelujah!

(The red lights instantly snap to pitch black. The four blow out or turn off their candles and silently exit the stage in the dark. Bindu remains on stage, lying down on the floor under a single soft white spotlight, simulating a hospital bed.)

SCENE 4: The Fragrance of Heaven

(Bindu is breathing weakly. An actor playing her mother kneels beside her, holding her hand.)

Bindu: (Weakly, looking upward) Amma… don't cry. I saw Rajani and Shiji. Mother Mary is with them. She lifted Shiji right out of the fire. Amma, tell Mother Mary to take me too…

(Bindu closes her eyes peacefully and lets her hand drop. Her mother weeps silently. Bindu turns on her electric candle, stands up gracefully, and walks to the back of the stage where Roy, Rajani, Shiji, and Reena are now standing—all wearing white stoles or holding bright candles.)

Narrator: (Walking back to center stage) On March 11, 2001, four of them entered eternity; days later, Bindu joined them. They were buried side by side in Chempanoda, like four lamps lit upon the earth.

(The five youth stand in a line, smiling beautifully at the audience, their candles lighting up their faces.)

Narrator: Their story did not end in a burning bus. Because of their witness, thousands of youth across the world stepped into missionary life. They proved to the world that holiness is possible for the young. They didn't preach from grand stages; they preached with their very last breath.

The Five Youth: (In a gentle, beautiful echo) Holy, Holy, Holy… Praise the Lord… Thank You Jesus…

(The youth lift their candles high as the stage lights slowly fade to black.)

Production & Acting Tips for Sunday School Teachers: The "Bus Crash" Scene: Do not try to re-create a bus physically. Use chairs. The impact comes entirely from the actors' body language (jarring forward together) and the dramatic shift to red lighting.

The Final Praise: The final shout of "Thank you Jesus! Hallelujah!" must not sound like a cry of defeat. It should sound victorious, capturing the exact spiritual climax of their martyrdom.

Props: 5 battery-operated LED candles, backpacks, 1 physical rosary.