

ADVENTURES IN WONDER LAB



THE BIG IDEA

I wonder what makes
my story unique?

THE BIBLE

Created and Saved by God:
Ephesians 2:4-10

DAY 1

CHARACTERS

- **Dr. Casey Roberts**, *Robotics Scientist*.
- **Taylor Maxima**, *Mathematician and Wonder Lab Assistant*.
- **Wonderbot**, *Wonder Lab invention-in-progress*. Wonderbot is mostly a non-speaking character that sits still most of the time. Consider having Wonderbot move around in the background when the other characters aren't looking so the audience could get some laughs, and so your volunteer playing Wonderbot has more to do!

PROPS/SET

- costume for Wonderbot (or check out [these DIY ideas](#))
- work bench (or table)
- computer monitors
- a keyboard (it doesn't actually have to be connected to a computer monitor)
- toolbox
- wrench
- some wires
- a soldering iron
- wad of gum

SCRIPT

Setting is Wonder Lab, a computer science lab - several monitors sit on a desk, there's a large toolbox in the corner, and WONDERBOT sits motionless in the center stage.

ROBOTICS SCIENTIST DR. CASEY
ROBERTS *is at a computer typing furiously.*
MATHEMATICIAN AND ASSISTANT TAYLOR
MAXIMA *enters from stage right.*

DR. ROBERTS: *(Looks up from computer)*

Ah, mathematician and number one Wonder Lab Assistant Taylor Maxima! Good, you're here!

ASSISTANT: Hello . . . um, wonderful robotics scientist Dr. Casey Roberts. You wanted to show me something?

DR. ROBERTS: Meet Wonderbot! My soon-to-be finest creation yet!

ASSISTANT: Oh hello, Wonderbot. What exactly will be your purpose, little one?

DR. ROBERTS: Wonderbot will be absolutely wonderful! It will be fluent in Latin. It'll split atoms like that *(Snaps fingers)*, ride a skateboard, and even be able to create the perfect peanut butter and jelly sandwich. It'll lift over a thousand pounds and burp so loud that it can be heard from over 100 miles away.

ASSISTANT: Why would we need to hear a burp from over 100 miles away?

DR. ROBERTS: I don't know, figured it would be cool.

ASSISTANT: It is kinda cool!

DR. ROBERTS: I'm telling ya when I'm done, Wonderbot will be the most magnificent work of modern technological art the world has ever seen. With Wonderbot, the world will change forever and be a better place to live!

ASSISTANT: Wow! How do you even plan to accomplish that?

DR. ROBERTS: Well, that is where your assistance comes in, my friend! I may need your help in adjusting a few of the algorithms in my programming. But if my theory is correct, just a few more tweaks of the circuitry and—

DR. ROBERTS rushes to the toolbox to grab a wrench, some wires, and a soldering iron.

DR. ROBERTS: *(cont'd)*: If I can connect these to the father-board then we should—

ASSISTANT: Excuse me . . . 'father-board'?

DR. ROBERTS: *(Slaps forehead)* Motherboard! Sorry, I meant motherboard. I haven't slept in a while. Like I was saying if I can connect these then we should be able to get a glimpse of what Wonderbot can do!

DR. ROBERTS begins to work on WONDERBOT.

DR. ROBERTS: (cont'd): Oh Wonderbot, you will be my finest creation yet! Let's see, we've got this extra battery here. (*Picks up a wad of gum*) Oh, look! That's where I left my gum! (*Puts gum in mouth and begins chewing*) Anyway, if I can just attach this cable to act as a conductor that brings the power to the motherboard. And we should have—

All of a sudden WONDERBOT sputters to life and begins to flail its "limbs" all around the place, knocking the tools out of DR. ROBERTS' hands. DR. ROBERTS falls to the ground in disbelief. ASSISTANT helps DR. ROBERTS up off the ground.

ASSISTANT: Well it's a pretty good dancer, but something tells me you were expecting something else.

DR. ROBERTS brushes themselves off, completely flustered. ASSISTANT rushes to WONDERBOT and presses a button on its side. WONDERBOT stops in its tracks, "limbs" going limp.

DR. ROBERTS: I don't know what went wrong . . . I've done everything right. It should have worked this time! I've poured my heart and soul into this project, but maybe it's time that we face the facts—maybe Wonderbot will not be so wonderful after all. I think it's time to move on from this project, Taylor Maxima.

ASSISTANT: What!? How could you even propose such an idea??

DR. ROBERTS: Let's face it, we'll never get Wonderbot to speak Latin, or to even get it to play hopscotch with us at this rate! What's the point in trying? I'm a failure and now I'll never be able to show my sixth grade teacher that she was wrong about me!

ASSISTANT: Wow, you've been holding on to that for a really long time.

DR. ROBERTS: I've worked so hard to become a robotics scientist so that one day the world could know my story! Who's gonna want to hear my story now?

ASSISTANT: You know, just because you've failed once doesn't mean you or your story doesn't matter. Your story is about more than your success as a scientist.

DR. ROBERTS: You're not making any sense. What else could it be about?

ASSISTANT: Your life as a follower of God, of course! Dr. Roberts, do you know what I consider the most important tool in my life as a mathematician?

DR. ROBERTS: Umm . . . a ruler? Maybe a protractor? Or one of those things with the . . . I have no idea.

ASSISTANT: Believe it or not, it's a Bible, because it reminds me to put God before everything else. And in Ephesians 2:10, it specifically says, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." So you and I were both put on this earth to do the good works that God prepared for us!

DR. ROBERTS: So . . . we're like . . . God's Wonderbots?

ASSISTANT: Yeah, in a way! God created all of us exactly as planned. But then that terrible thing called sin entered the world—you know, the thing that makes us disobey God? But God found a way to fix that. God saved us from sin by sending Jesus, God's son! So now, whenever we, uh, malfunction because of sin, we only need to pray to God to forgive us.

DR. ROBERTS: Well, I understand that part. But what I don't get is, if all of us are saved in exactly the same way, then what makes any of us special?

ASSISTANT: I get what you mean. I grew up as the youngest of five kids in a very small town out west. Whenever I felt overshadowed by my siblings' needs for attention, I began to wonder what made my story unique.

DR. ROBERTS: Was it corndogs? Those made me feel pretty special as a kid.

ASSISTANT: Not quite, I actually found happiness in numbers, which led me to be the skilled mathematician you know me as today! You see, God puts every detail of our story to work . . . nothing is wasted with God. When you wonder, wonder about what makes your story unique because you'll find clues to God's special purpose for your life too! So now what do you think makes your story unique?

DR. ROBERTS: I don't think I've ever been asked that question. I guess I've just always liked robots. I can't remember a time when I liked anything else! Except for corndogs of course.

ASSISTANT: See? Your love and passion for robots—

DR. ROBERTS: —and corndogs—

ASSISTANT: Yes, and corndogs. Those passions make you unique! Not many people can say the same thing.

DR. ROBERTS: Wow. I guess you're right.

ASSISTANT: And even though God is in everyone's stories, everyone's story with God is different, because everyone is different! So, whenever you get to share your story, you can talk about more than all your robotics success . . . you can talk about all the wonderful things God has done in your life!

DR. ROBERTS: I think I get it now. Even though we've all been created and saved by God, we've all been created in a unique way and saved for a unique purpose, is that right?

ASSISTANT: You got it! Now, knowing that your story is uniquely the way God planned for it to be, will you work on finishing Wonderbot with me? We can work together to figure out what's causing Wonderbot to go crazy!

DR. ROBERTS: I like the sound of that. Let's write our unique stories together and build Wonderbot! And boy, do I have a lot of stories to tell.

Links arms with ASSISTANT and starts walking them off stage.

You see, a long, long time ago . . .

ASSISTANT: *(Looks at audience while being pulled off stage)* Anyone wanna trade places with me? Anyone?!

ADVENTURES IN WONDER LAB



THE BIG IDEA

I wonder what gifts
God gave me?

THE BIBLE

Using Gifts from God:
I Peter 4:10; II Timothy 1:6-7

DAY 2

CHARACTERS

- **Dr. Casey Roberts**, *Robotics Scientist*.
- **Taylor Maxima**, *Mathematician and Wonder Lab Assistant*.
- **Wonderbot** (non-speaking character), *Wonder Lab invention-in-progress*

PROPS/SET

- costume for Wonderbot (or check out [these DIY ideas](#))
- work bench (or table)
- revolving computer chair
- computer monitors
- a keyboard (it doesn't actually have to be connected to a computer monitor)
- toolbox
- notebook
- pen
- safety goggles
- fireproof gloves
- Bible
- math textbook
- lighter (it doesn't have to work)

SCRIPT

Setting is the Wonder Lab - several monitors sit on a desk, there's a large toolbox in the corner, and WONDERBOT is in the center of the stage, hiccuping periodically throughout the entire scene.

MATHEMATICIAN ASSISTANT TAYLOR MAXIMA *enters from stage right and begins to pace back and forth across the stage while intently studying a notebook and occasionally scribbling things out with a pen.*

ASSISTANT: No, no, no, I could have sworn that I need to multiply right there! Or is it addition? Or maybe find the square root? No, that doesn't sound right.

ASSISTANT *creeps up behind WONDERBOT and yells, "Boo!" After a brief silence, WONDERBOT hiccups again.*

With an exasperated sigh, ASSISTANT plops down at the computer desk and slouches in the chair.

ROBOTICS SCIENTIST DR. CASEY ROBERTS *enters from stage left.*

DR. ROBERTS: Woah! Taylor Maxima! Are you sad? 'Cause that is not a sad chair!

ASSISTANT: A sad chair? What are you talking about?

DR. ROBERTS: Well, I work very hard to get this lab not only clean but completely free of any negative energy and sad chemicals! So that chair is not a sad chair!

ASSISTANT: Right now, every chair I sit in is a sad chair.

DR. ROBERTS: Oh no. Well. Looks like we're gonna have to spin it out of you.

ASSISTANT: Spin what out of me? The sadness?

DR. ROBERTS: Yup, I do it all the time when my favorite restaurant runs out of corndogs.

ASSISTANT: What is up with you and corndogs? Woah!

DR. ROBERTS *comes up behind ASSISTANT and gives the chair a good spinning.*

ASSISTANT: Whoa, whoa, whoa!

DR. ROBERTS: How do you feel? Still sad?

ASSISTANT: I don't know. I can't tell if I'm really sad or just . . . really dizzy.

DR. ROBERTS: Take a breather and then we can talk it all out! What's on your mind?

ASSISTANT *sits up in the chair and takes a few deep breaths.*

ASSISTANT: Dr. Roberts, I simply cannot crack this algorithm. It's as though all of my knowledge has flown away from my head like a, like, thing with wings that flies . . .

DR. ROBERTS: A bird?

ASSISTANT: Ugh . . . yes. See what I mean. I've lost all my knowledge. All of my mathematical magic!

DR. ROBERTS: Well now, I doubt that! Math is your gift from God!

ASSISTANT: Hmph. Gifts from God are supposed to be used.

DR. ROBERTS: You are using your gifts!

ASSISTANT: Well, I thought I was! I read in I Peter 4:10 from my Bible today that each of us should use whatever gift we have to serve others. But how am I supposed to use my gift to serve others if my gift isn't working?!

DR. ROBERTS: What's two times four?

ASSISTANT: Eight. Oh, you! That doesn't count.

DR. ROBERTS: No, but you do! Get it? Count? Because you're a math—

ASSISTANT: Stop that! And guess what else I read?! Not only am I supposed to use my gift, but I'm also supposed to set it on fire.

Walks to toolbox and pulls out safety goggles, fire-safe gloves.

DR. ROBERTS: Um . . . did you say fire?

ASSISTANT: Yup! Now I'm just going to need you to light up this math book like a campfire ready for s'mores.

Hands DR. ROBERTS a lighter and holds the textbook to their head.

DR. ROBERTS looks at ASSISTANT with concern.

ASSISTANT: Come on, it's fire time! It says it in the Bible! II Timothy 1:6: 'For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God.' *(Points to DR. ROBERTS) Flame. (Points to textbook) Gift.*

DR. ROBERTS: I think maybe you're onto something but let's put this away for a minute.

DR. ROBERTS takes the book from ASSISTANT and sets it and the lighter aside.

DR. ROBERTS (con'd): To fan something into flame is just a way of talking—not to literally set something on fire. It means that you need to keep using your God-given gifts instead of hiding them away.

ASSISTANT: I'm not hiding it away! It's hiding from me!

DR. ROBERTS: *(Laughs)* Last time you helped me realize that all of us have unique stories. It's the same thing with our gifts. We all have gifts—talents or abilities that God gives us so that we may use it to help others. But we all have different gifts that God can use in different ways. And your knowledge of math is one of the many gifts that God has given you.

ASSISTANT: But how do I know for sure? How do I know it's not just something I'm really good at?

DR. ROBERTS: Well, it can be hard to tell. But the main difference between a gift and just something you're really good at is that a gift is something that can be used to help others.

ASSISTANT: *(Thinks for a while)* Well, I suppose I have used math quite a few times to help someone other than myself. Like when I used to tutor my friends in school. Or helping fix Wonderbot here.

DR. ROBERTS: You see? Without you, I wouldn't know the exact calculations needed to make Wonderbot fully functional. I mean, I'm not so shabby at math myself—I am a robotics scientist, after all. But your eye for numbers is phenomenal. A true gift!

ASSISTANT: Okay. If math is my gift, then what is yours?

DR. ROBERTS: Mine is clearly my witty charm, killer good looks, and I'm unstoppable on the dance floor.

DR. ROBERTS stands and does a quick and terrible dance.

ASSISTANT: Even if math is my gift, I'm still not sure what to do with it in this instance. I've looked at this algorithm a million times!

DR. ROBERTS: Would it help to have another set of eyes look at it?

ASSISTANT: That would be great!

DR. ROBERTS: Perfect. I'll see if they're selling any online at amazon.com.

ASSISTANT: Dr. Roberts, I think the eyes you have will do just fine.

DR. ROBERTS: Right! Of course!

ASSISTANT hands DR. ROBERTS the notebook.

ASSISTANT: I hope you can make sense of what I wrote.

DR. ROBERTS studies the notebook intently, and even sniffing it.

DR. ROBERTS: Now, it's been a while since I solved a math problem, but it seems this is written in another language. If I had to guess, maybe Arabic or Japanese?

ASSISTANT: I think it's upside down . . .

DR. ROBERTS: *(Flips notebook right side up)* Ah ha! Well. That didn't help in the slightest. Would you mind if I carry this around for a while and keep taking a look?

ASSISTANT: Wait . . . what did you say?

DR. ROBERTS: I was just curious if I could carry it around.

ASSISTANT quickly snatches the notebook.

ASSISTANT: I can't believe it! I forgot to carry the four to finish the equation, giving me the proper result for Wonderbot! You helped me!

DR. ROBERTS: Perfect! Now let's try out the new algorithm and see if Wonderbot will stop hiccuping!

ASSISTANT types away at the keyboard for at least ten seconds. Then they showboating-ly press the enter key with a flourish.

Both DR. ROBERTS and ASSISTANT look at Wonderbot expectantly. WONDERBOT stops hiccuping.

DR. ROBERTS: You did it! You fixed Wonderbot! I told you that—

WONDERBOT suddenly makes a weird noise and wanders off stage.

ASSISTANT: Huh, that fixed the bug inside Wonderbot, But something else is wrong. Are you absolutely totally positive that math is supposed to be my gift from God?

DR. ROBERTS: Of course! But I never said that it's your only gift. I think this means you're going to need work on another gift, the gift of teamwork! I'll call in some reinforcements tonight and first thing in the morning we'll be able to work together and pinpoint what the real problem with Wonderbot is!

WONDERBOT reappears and waddles like a penguin to the other side of the stage.

DR. ROBERTS: (cont'd): Make that *problems*, plural. Wonderbot? Come back!

DR. ROBERTS *and* ASSISTANT *chase* WONDERBOT *off stage*.

ADVENTURES IN WONDER LAB



THE BIG IDEA

I wonder what I can
learn from others?

THE BIBLE

Loving Like God:
I John 4:11; I Peter 4:8

DAY 3

CHARACTERS

- **Dr. Casey Roberts**, *Robotics Scientist.*
- **Taylor Maxima**, *Mathematician and Wonder Lab Assistant.*
- **Dr. Riley Bell**, *Engineer*
- **Wonderbot**, *Wonder Lab invention-in-progress*

PROPS/SET

- work bench (or table)
- computer chair
- computer monitors
- toolbox
- various tools
- cables
- cup of water
- plate of cookies
- doorbell (sound fx)
- small portable toolbox
- glass of water
- plate of cookies

SCRIPT

Setting is the Wonder Lab - several monitors sit on a desk, there's a large toolbox in the corner, and WONDERBOT sits center stage with a whole bunch of tools and cables scattered around it. There's a cup of water and a plate of cookies on the table.

As ASSISTANT enters from stage right, ROBOTICS SCIENTIST DR. CASEY ROBERTS peeks out from behind WONDERBOT.

ASSISTANT: Hey, Dr. Roberts! I heard we have an engineer coming by today to help us with our problems on Wonderbot?

DR. ROBERTS: Yes, indeed we do! I got here really early so I can make everything as simple as possible for our guest. I've laid everything out all nice and neat so it can all be within an arm's reach of my old friend.

ASSISTANT looks at the piles of tangled cables and heaps of tools thrown haphazardly about.

ASSISTANT: Is 'nice and neat' scientist language for . . . really messy?

DR. ROBERTS: Oh no, you're right. That's not good, we need to pick up this mess we made!

ASSISTANT: We? You made this mess!

DR. ROBERTS: I know, I know, but this would be a wonderful, uh, team building exercise! We're a team and the quicker we get this cleaned up the better our engineer friend will be able to work better and hopefully find out what we need to do to make Wonderbot work and begin to change the world! *(Pauses)* And also make me a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. I could *really* use some PB&J.

ASSISTANT: *(Starts tidying up)* I'm still quite doubtful that we'll ever get Wonderbot to be even close to perfect. We've fiddled with the equations a thousand times! I know I'm just an assistant at the Wonder Lab, but I'm one of the best in the field of mathematics!

DR. ROBERTS: Yes you are, no doubt about that! But the beauty of science is that we never stop asking questions until we find the answer! And it'll be helpful to get a fresh set of eyes on the situation, and not just the ones I ordered from Amazon.

ASSISTANT: You actually ordered the eyeballs?

DR. ROBERTS: It was on sale! Also, it turns out it was just candy.

ASSISTANT: Well, in any case. I still say we don't need any extra help. What can an engineer bring to the table that a robotics scientist and a mathematician can't figure out?

DR. ROBERTS: Oh engineering is a completely different field than science or math! We're more than likely to learn a thing or two today. I'm so excited!

ASSISTANT: I don't know, Dr. Roberts, I still think we're fine with just the two of us.

DR. ROBERTS: Obviously not . . . we haven't the faintest idea what's wrong with Wonderbot!

ASSISTANT: But why do we need *new* people? I'm not sure I like new people.

DR. ROBERTS: You don't like new people!? That's like not liking chocolate chip ice cream!

ASSISTANT: Oh no . . .

DR. ROBERTS: YOU DON'T LIKE CHOCOLATE CHIP ICE CREAM?!

ASSISTANT: Not so much.

DR. ROBERTS: Taylor Maxima, but you must know that God wants us to love chocolate chip ice cream—I mean—love everyone! Everyone means new people, too!

ASSISTANT: God can't possibly want us to love *everyone*! That's like *(Counts on fingers)* a lot of people.

DR. ROBERTS: Oh but God does! If you read I John 4:11, it clearly says that because God loves us, we should love one another.

ASSISTANT: 'One another' doesn't necessarily mean everyone. Well, okay, they both have the word "one" in it, but doesn't this verse just mean that I should love everyone I already know?

DR. ROBERTS: Hmm. So you're saying that you would only show kindness to the people you know? Only care about the people you like? Respect only the people who treat you the same way?

ASSISTANT: See, now you're making sense, Dr. Roberts. That seems like the most logical thing to do.

DR. ROBERTS: But love is not about logic, my friend. Can you imagine if God used that "logic" toward us? None of us really deserve being loved by God, you know.

ASSISTANT: I know that. I am thankful every day that God loves me so much. But I'm not God, Dr. Roberts. I can't love everyone.

DR. ROBERTS: Yes you can. The Bible says you can. And you can start by asking yourself, I wonder what I can learn from others! Learning from someone, and learning about someone, helps you learn to love them as a person! Why don't you give Dr. Riley Bell a chance?

At that moment a doorbell rings.

DR. ROBERTS: On that note—COME IN!

ENGINEER DR. RILEY BELL *enters from stage left, carrying their own box of tools.*

DR. ROBERTS: (cont'd): Ah, famous engineer Dr. Riley Bell, welcome, welcome! Please ignore our mess *(Gets elbowed by ASSISTANT)* —ow! Sorry, my mess. This is the world's greatest mathematician, in my humble opinion, and Wonder Lab assistant, Taylor Maxima, the real brains behind Wonderbot.

DR. BELL: Hello Casey, good to see you! Pleasure to meet you, Dr. Maxima!

ASSISTANT: It's just Taylor.

DR. ROBERTS: For now! Taylor's just six months away from getting a doctor's degree! We are so very thankful to have you come here today to help us fix our Wonderbot, aren't we? *(Gives ASSISTANT a pointed look)*

ASSISTANT: Uh, yeah, I guess. We could probably figure it out ourselves eventually but maybe we can fix Wonderbot quicker with you here.

DR. BELL: I'll definitely try. So . . . I'll just get to work, shall I?

DR. BELL *sets down their tool box and starts to tinker with WONDERBOT.*

DR. ROBERTS: Can I get you anything to eat? Or perhaps a snack? Corndog?

ASSISTANT: Dr. Roberts really likes corndogs.

DR. ROBERTS: They're my favorite vegetable! Get it? Corn . . . no? Okay.

DR. BELL: Some water would be lovely!

DR. ROBERTS: One cup of water coming up!

ASSISTANT pulls DR. ROBERTS to the side.

ASSISTANT: What are you doing? Just let Dr. Bell work as quickly as possible then leave! What are you fetching water for?

DR. ROBERTS: It's called being a gracious host, Taylor. Showing people they are welcome is another way to love everyone.

ASSISTANT: Oh are we still talking about that? Wait a minute . . . is that why every time I come into the lab there's always a cup of water and some snacks waiting on my desk?

DR. ROBERTS: As the kids say these days . . . DUH!

ASSISTANT: I'm not sure anyone says that anymore.

DR. ROBERTS: Of course the water and snacks are for you! Did you think that I just forgot about them there?

ASSISTANT: Well . . . yeah. You forget things all the time.

DR. ROBERTS: Be that as it may, I leave out snacks for you to express my love for you, dear friend! I know you spend a lot of hours creating in here so I just wanted to give you something to help you get through those long nights. I also got you chocolate chip ice cream in the freezer but I guess you won't be eating that.

ASSISTANT: Wow, that really explains a lot. The work I do is very stressful but your homemade cookies are just what I need whenever I'm stuck! I really do feel loved!

DR. ROBERTS: You *are* loved! See, loving everyone doesn't mean that you need to bake everyone cookies or be best friends with them. But being kind to people, offering to help, or caring for people who are hurt, even if you don't know them very well . . . these are all ways we can show God's love!

ASSISTANT: And the Bible says that we should love others because we've been loved already by God, right? All this time, I have been loved by God but I didn't do a whole lot to let others know about God's love.

DR. ROBERTS: It's understandable. When we come across someone who's different or new, we have a habit of keeping our distance or sometimes being rude and unkind.

ASSISTANT: I was pretty rude to Dr. Bell, wasn't I?

DR. ROBERTS: Oh, I'm not trying to put you on blast! It happens to all of us. But when you spend time with people and get to know *their* unique stories, you might be surprised at what you learn from them.

ASSISTANT: Okay, then let me give this "love" thing a try. Would it be okay if I went and got the water for Dr. Bell?

DR. ROBERTS: I would love it if you did that. Thank you.

ASSISTANT exits stage right.

DR. ROBERTS: (cont'd): So what's the prognosis, Doc?

DR BELL: I'm no medical doctor but it looks like the patient (*Pats WONDERBOT on the head*) will make a full recovery. It was a simple matter of the input voltage of the battery being too high for the low voltage motherboard, therefore causing the unit to overheat.

DR. ROBERTS: Excellent . . . (*Whispers to audience*) did you get that?

ASSISTANT returns with a glass of water and some cookies.

ASSISTANT: I know you only asked for water, but Dr. Roberts truly does make the best cookies around. You have to try them.

DR. BELL: Thank you so much, I appreciate it.

ASSISTANT: So what did I miss?

DR. ROBERTS: Oh, Taylor, Dr. Bell is a genius! Riley here has gone and caught all of our flubs. The problem was with the volts of the doodad in Wonderbot's thingamajig inside the, uh . . .

DR BELL: In other words, the battery was too powerful for Wonderbot. I need to double-check the motherboard for any damage, but in a perfect world, we'll just have to replace the battery and you won't have the problem again!

ASSISTANT: Oh it did turn out to be an engineering problem after all! All this time I was so focused on getting the mathematical equations right!

DR. BELL: It's really easy to miss. But Wonderbot is an incredible invention, you two make a wonderful team.

DR. ROBERTS: And this team wouldn't be complete with you, genius engineer! Can I get you anything else while you're here? Would you like a blanket to keep warm? Or perhaps a nice hot cup of tea? Or maybe we can get you a puppy to help calm any nerves? Possibly a corn dog?

ASSISTANT: Okay, Dr. Roberts, that's plenty of love for now. We should let Dr. Bell get to work, and maybe by tomorrow, we'll have a fully functional Wonderbot!

DR. ROBERTS: We definitely will! But I'm happier with having a fully functional mathematician Taylor Maxima who learned about loving others today and made a new friend!

ASSISTANT: Thanks for helping me understand God's love for everyone. I'm really gald you called Dr. Riley Bell to come help us. I learned a lot today. I can't wait to see who else I can love, and what else I can learn from others! (*Points to a kid in the audience*) You there! What's your story?

DR. ROBERTS: (*Grabs plate of cookies from table*) Mmm... yummy cookies! Who wants a cookie?

DR. ROBERTS walks backwards with plate as ASSISTANT follows as if in a trance and both exit stage right.

ADVENTURES IN WONDER LAB



THE BIG IDEA

I wonder how I can
spend time with God?

THE BIBLE

Living for God:
Colossians 1:9-12, 3:16, 4:2-3

DAY 4

CHARACTERS

- **Dr. Casey Roberts**, *Robotics Scientist.*
- **Taylor Maxima**, *Mathematician and Wonder Lab Assistant.*
- **Dr. Riley Bell**, *Engineer*
- **Wonderbot**, *Wonder Lab invention-in-progress*

PROPS/SET

- work bench (or table)
- computer chair
- computer monitors
- toolbox
- tools
- cables
- large power switch that can be flipped on and off
- a sticky note with the words, “remember to spend time with God” written on it
- Bible
- dance music (sound fx)

SCRIPT

Setting is the Wonder Lab - several monitors sit on desks, there's a large toolbox in the corner, and WONDERBOT sits center stage with a whole bunch of tools and cables scattered around it.

ENGINEER DR. RILEY BELL is on stage working on WONDERBOT. MATHEMATICIAN ASSISTANT TAYLOR MAXIMA is asleep on the lab bench.

Enter ROBOTICS SCIENTIST DR. CASEY ROBERT from stage right.

DR. ROBERTS: Ah! There you are, the two smartest people on the planet! Dr. Riley Bell, engineer extraordinaire and Taylor Maxima, wonderful mathematician and Wonder Lab assistant . . . *(Notices ASSISTANT is asleep. Walks over and yells very loudly.)*

ASSISTANT: *(Awakes abruptly)* And the lowest common denominator is three!

DR. ROBERTS: Working hard?

ASSISTANT: Oh my goodness, I fell asleep?! How long was I out? Five hours? Twelve hours? Two days?

DR. BELL: Relax, you've only been asleep for ten minutes. Taylor and I stayed up all night working on Wonderbot!

DR. ROBERTS: Indeed! I wish I could have been here, too, but I had that early morning presentation at the university! So, how is it coming long? Are you done yet? PLEASE tell me you're done!

DR. BELL: We finished building the new battery and we just hooked it up to the motherboard. Everything should be all set now! As long as everything else about its circuitry is properly connected and the algorithms that Taylor Maxima plugged in are correct then I think Wonderbot will be fully functional and on its way to helping the world—

DR. ROBERTS: —and making PB&Js—

DR. BELL: —right after we flip this switch!

ASSISTANT: My nerves can't handle this! What if it doesn't work? Are we going to need to start over completely? I don't know what I'll do if Wonderbot is a failure. Do you think this is how God felt before creating everything? Wait, how can we possibly compare this to God creating the universe? *(Starts biting fingernails)* Okay, let's do this. No, no, not yet. Alright, now. No, wait!

DR. ROBERTS: *(Laughs)* You are worrying way too much! God is in control. If Wonderbot works, great! If it doesn't, we will have learned a lesson and we will try again.

ASSISTANT: I guess you're right.

DR. BELL: That's a great way to think about it. So let's flip that switch!

DR. ROBERTS: Well, you heard Dr. Bell! We'll flip the switch on the count of three. *(To audience)* You'll help us?

ALL: One . . . two . . . three!

DR. BELL *flips the switch, but nothing happens.*

ASSISTANT: I knew it! Oh, man, it didn't work!

DR. BELL: No, it just has to warm up. After each battery replacement, the robot must reset before it becomes operational. It takes a couple of minutes at most.

ASSISTANT: Oh, good. Yeah. I knew that. So what should we do while we wait?

DR. ROBERTS: *(excitedly, nearly shouting)* I know! How about Corn— *(gets interrupted)*

DR BELL & ASSISTANT: No corn dogs!

DR. ROBERTS: Okay, well how about this?

DR. BELL: What's that?

DR. ROBERTS: It's my note from my desk this morning. I wrote it down a long time ago but it really spoke to me today.

ASSISTANT: *(In awe)* You made a *talking* sticky note?!

DR. ROBERTS: It's just an expression, Taylor.

ASSISTANT: But admit it, how cool would that be?

DR. BELL: I'd buy one. Maybe we can work on that for our next project. But anyway, what does your note say?

DR. ROBERTS: It says always remember to spend time with God.

ASSISTANT: What does that mean, "To spend time with God?"

DR. ROBERTS: Well, it honestly can mean a lot of things. We can spend time with God through prayer, reading the Bible, exploring nature, quiet time before bed, singing songs of praise . . . we can spend time with God in many ways.

DR. BELL: I'm not sure I've done much of any of those things lately. Is that bad?

DR. ROBERTS: Well, you know how the more time we spend around loved ones and friends the better we get to know them?

ASSISTANT: Yeah, I love hanging out with the people I'm closest to.

DR. ROBERTS: Well, it's a lot like that. The more time we spend with God the better we get to know God. It's not something we *have* to do, it's something we *want* to do!

DR. BELL: It's true, I do want to spend time with God. But I have so little time! I mean, I didn't even sleep last night but I still have so much work to do. How can I fit in spending time with God?

DR. ROBERTS: That's why I wrote this note down. Because spending time with God is super important but sometimes we can forget about it. I myself am always having to do a million things, but past-me is reminding now-me to put God before all of that.

ASSISTANT: *(Grabs Bible from table)* I think I read something about that in the Bible. Hang on. *(Flips through pages)* Ah, here it is. In the book of Colossians, it says to devote ourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

DR. BELL: Praying seems like it would be easy enough to do! I can start and end my day by praying to God. Maybe I should write myself a note to remind myself to do just that.

ASSISTANT: And I could spend my lunch break reading the Bible!

DR. ROBERTS: Those are all excellent ideas and wonderful things to do, but we're going about it the wrong way. The objective is not to fit God into our schedule. It's about making God the center of our schedule!

ASSISTANT: So, spend time with God in the *middle* of the day . . . ?

DR. BELL: Yes, please explain. I don't think Taylor really understands.

ASSISTANT: And I don't think Dr. Bell does either.

DR. ROBERTS: You two make me laugh. Let's think about Wonderbot. If Wonderbot works, it will be fluent in Latin. It'll split atoms like that (*Snaps fingers*), ride a skateboard, and even be able to create the perfect peanut butter and jelly sandwich. It'll lift over a thousand pounds and burp so loud that it can be heard from over 100 miles away.

ASSISTANT: (*Pats WONDERBOT*) No pressure, friend.

DR. ROBERTS: But do you remember why we decided to build Wonderbot in the first place?

ASSISTANT: You said you wanted to create something that would make the world a better place.

DR. BELL: Why would the world need to hear a burp from over 100 miles away?

DR. ROBERTS: The point is, we were focused on building Wonderbot, but everything we did was about changing the world for the better. It's kind of like that for spending time with God. God doesn't want us to stop everything we're doing. But God wants everything we do to be motivated by our love for God. Everything we do. Everything we say. Every peanut-butter-and-jelly-making wonder robot we make.

DR. BELL: (*Starts sobbing*) That . . . was . . . beautiful. I don't know if it's because I'm so tired, but that made me so emotional.

ASSISTANT: No, don't do that, Dr. Bell. Now i'm gonna . . . (*Starts sobbing also*)

DR. ROBERTS: (*Bawls loudly*) This is the greatest team ever!

DR. BELL: Well, I have an idea. Why don't we say a little prayer right now while Wonderbot finishes rebooting?

DR. ROBERTS: Excellent idea!

ASSISTANT: I'll start. Dear God, thank you so much for giving us all the gifts and gifted team members who came together to build Wonderbot.

DR. BELL: We are sorry that many times in our lives, we are so focused on everything we need to do, we forget about spending time with you.

DR. ROBERTS: Put a giant talking sticky note on our hearts and remind us to spend time with you. Praying, reading the Bible, singing worship songs, but also, living our lives with you and for you.

ALL: Amen.

ASSISTANT: Well, now that you helped me remember what the most important thing is, I think I feel a lot better about Wonderbot now. No matter what happens, if it works or if it doesn't, I'll still get to spend time with God, And the both of you!

DR. ROBERTS: Alright! I think it's almost time! It's warmed up, all we have to do is flip the switch one more time!

The three of them place their hands on top of each other on top of WONDERBOT's power switch and flip it to 'on'.

After a brief moment, WONDERBOT stirs a little from a slumped position then comes to a full standing position.

WONDERBOT: Hello humans! What can I assist you with today?

ASSISTANT: Praise God, it works! It actually works! But first, let's test it. Wonderbot, what is the square root of 100?

WONDERBOT: Calculating. Calculating. 10!

DR. ROBERTS: Where is the biggest ball of yarn located?

WONDERBOT: Cauker City, Kansas, United States of America

DR. BELL: Can you help us continue to get closer to God?

DR. ROBERTS: Ooh, good question!

WONDERBOT: Yes. I can help you spend time with each other, spend time with God, use your gifts, and share your stories! Those are my primary duties as Wonderbot.

DR. ROBERTS: *(Claps giddily)* Yes! Bravo!

ASSISTANT: It's even better than what I programmed it to do!

DR. BELL: It has been an honor to be a part of the Wonder Lab team. Casey. Taylor. It's been *wonderful*.

ASSISTANT: We're so glad you could be here to share this experience with us!

DR. ROBERTS: Me too! Now I only have one more question to ask Wonderbot, What is the greatest food on earth?

WONDERBOT: The answer to that question is . . . calculating . . . calculating . . . corndogs!

ASSISTANT: Oh no, it's malfunctioning already!

DR. ROBERTS: What are you talking about? Wonderbot is a success!! It's time for a dance party Wonderbot!

WONDERBOT: Initializing Dance Party!

WONDERBOT begins to play a worship song from its speakers and waves its arms in the air to the rhythm of the song. As the song goes on, the team all joins in and sings along with the music.