

# PIERS THE PLOUGHMAN

By Rod

*This sketch is based on Jesus' words in John 14 v6. It seeks to illustrate how He is the only way but that people easily get misled into taking other unsuccessful options.*

## CAST

Narrator A *Can simply read the script*

Narrator B *Can simply read the rest of the script!*

Piers *The main character*

Stranger 1 *Could be male or female*

Stranger 2 *Male or female*

Stranger 3 *Male or female*

Stranger 4 *Represents Jesus, so probably better played by a male*

*One person could play all 4 strangers if necessary – with suitable change of clothing (hat?) and accent??!!.*

Narrator A Once upon a time there was a man named Piers [*Enter Piers*] Piers was not very bright.

Narrator B Oh, so he wasn't Brighton Piers then? [*Laughs at his own joke. Piers looks confused*]

A [*Irritated, but continuing*] Piers was not very clever – but this did not worry him. His motto was..

Piers [*In Gloucestershire accent. With actions to suit words*]  
I can't read, I can't write – but it doesn't matter.  
I come from Gloucestershire – and I can drive a tractor. [*Holds up hands as if driving a tractor*]

B I see what you mean.

A Piers spent all day ploughing the fields, driving his tractor up and down.. [*Piers 'drives' from side to side across the stage*]

B ...up and down, up and down.

A Which gave him plenty of time to think. [*Piers thinks rather gormlessly as he continues to move from side to side*]

B What about?

A Sometimes he thought about his dog, Spot. *[Piers smiles lovingly]*

B That's nice.

A Sometimes he thought about what he was going to eat for his dinner.  
*[Piers rubs his tummy]*

B That's understandable: tractor driving makes you hungry.

A But mostly he thought about driving up and down..

B .. up and down, up and down.

A Then, one day he had a sudden flash of inspiration. *[Piers face lights up]*

B He decided to drive down and up, down and up?

A No! He thought to himself, "There must be more to life than driving up and down .."

B .. up and down, up and down.

A "I know", he said to himself, "I'll go to the Big City. I've heard how it's full of life, but now I want to go and see for myself."

B Good for you, Piers.

A So Piers stopped his tractor , climbed down and set off for the Big City.  
*[Piers mimes stopping tractor, climbing down and starts to walk backwards and forwards across the stage]*

B Excuse me but isn't he walking up and down, up and down...

A Yes, After Piers had been walking for a little while it occurred to him  
*[Piers stops]* that since he'd never been to the Big City before, he didn't know where it was or how to get there. *[Piers scratches his head]*

B Tricky.

A So he stopped a passer-by to ask the way. *[Enter Stranger 1. Piers and Stranger mime the following exchange]*

B "You're wasting your time going there", said the stranger.

A "Why's that?" asked Piers.

B “It’s not all it’s cracked up to be, that’s why. It’s really boring. There’s nothing to do. You’d be much better off coming with me to watch the football match”

A “Yeah, OK. Why not?” said Piers

B So off he went with his new found friend to watch Cheltenham Town play Kidderminster Harriers. *[Piers and Stranger 1 get into football fan mode]*

A Piers quickly learned the Cheltenham Town song.

Piers & Stranger We can’t read, we can’t write – but it doesn’t matter.  
We come from Cheltenhamshire – and we can drive a tractor.

A Piers enjoyed the game and thanked his friend for taking him. *[Piers and Stranger 1 shake hands. Exit Stranger 1]* But as he walked home he had an empty feeling inside. *[Piers stops, holds stomach and looks pensive]*

B He was probably hungry.

A *[Irritated but continuing]* Something was still missing from his life.

B A Big Mac and fries.

A *[Between clenched teeth, slowly]* “No,” he thought, “I still need to go to the Big City to see what it’s like for myself.” *[Piers turns round and heads in opposite direction]*

B Good thinking Piers, there’s bound to be a MacDonald’s there.

A *[Enter Stranger 2. He and Piers mime the following exchange]* So again he set off and again he stopped a passer-by to ask the way.

B “You’re wasting you time going there”, said the stranger.

A “Why’s that?” asked Piers.

B “Because it doesn’t exist.”

A “You mean there’s no such thing as the Big City?”

B “No, of course not. Get real. It’s just a fairy story made up by adults to tell their children – like Santa Claus.”

A “You mean Santa Claus doesn’t exist either?” asked Piers horror struck.

- B *[Stranger2 puts arm round the dejected Piers]* “You are in a bad way”, said the stranger. “You’d be better off going home and having a nice cup of cocoa while you watch the Disney Channel on TV. That’ll make you feel better. *[Exit Stranger2, Piers trudges looking very deflated]*”
- A So Piers trudged sadly home. *[Enter Stranger 3. He and Piers mime following exchange]*
- B But on his way he met a third passer-by who stopped him and asked him, “Why are you looking so sad?”
- A “I was looking for the way to the Big City.. “ began Piers.
- B “Oh, there are plenty of ways”, said the stranger brightly.
- A “Are there?” said Piers surprised. “How do I decide which one to take?”
- B “All you do is choose the one that suits you. As long as you’re sincere in your quest you’re bound to get there in the end.”
- A “Really? You mean it’s as easy as that?”
- B “Yes, it’s simply a matter of free choice.”
- A “Okay, thanks. *[Piers looks around]* I think I’ll choose this way. It looks pretty easy going – all downhill. Piece of cake.” *[Exit Stranger 3]*. So off he went. *[Piers begins to walk from side to side]* He kept on travelling along a nice comfortable route that suited him perfectly. *[Piers is smiling]*
- B And got lost. *[Piers stops abruptly and looks lost]*
- A Finally – as it was getting dark *[Piers peers!]* and Piers was getting tired *[yawns]* and hungry *[rubs stomach. Enter Stranger 4]* he met yet another stranger and asked him the way to the Big City.
- B “I’m glad you asked”, said the stranger.
- A “Why’s that?”, asked Piers.
- B “Because there is only one way.”
- A “Only *one* way?”
- B “Yes, and it is very narrow, but I will show it to you. Follow me.”

A                    “Great. Thanks.” [*Stranger leads Piers as if to the The Big City. This could be right at the front of the stage. The stranger could point out into the audience as if showing Piers the sights. His eyes light up in excitement and joy at what he sees.*] So Piers followed the stranger, found The Big City, and had a brilliant time in the company of his new friend, who showed him everything that really mattered.

Piers                I can't read, I can't write – and though I drive a tractor  
Now that I've been shown the way – nothing else will matter.

*THE END*