

Mystery Dinner Script

Directions for Table Leaders

We appreciate your help in making this activity fun and successful for the youth at your table. Please arrive at the church on Tuesday, October 26th at 6:45 pm so that you can get a table assignment and familiarize yourself with your group and the script. Help the youth to "get into" the activity by playing the part as much as they feel comfortable doing. We don't want anyone to feel uncomfortable, so they can just read their clue if that is what they are comfortable with.

Your job is to hand out clues to the appropriate characters at the beginning of each round. Choose one character to begin each round by reading their clue. While you are eating dessert, have the youth decide who they think the murderer is. Have them choose one person as their spokesperson. They will stand and tell who they think did it and why at the appropriate time.

Clue's #1

Clue # 1 for Mr. Fife:

I know that Mr. Mult knows that there is a great deal of hatred between Mr. N and Judge Black. I know Mr. Mult is a great friend of Mr. N and would do anything to cover for him...no matter what it took.

Clue #1 for the Maid:

I know that the judge's brother, Sean, was always jealous of Judge Jones' position as Chief Justice. He always wanted the position for himself not matter what it meant he had to do.

Clue #1 for Mr. N:

I have discovered that Judge Black is part of a secret group who are striving to put themselves in power. I know he has been covering up crimes for his friends.

Clue #1 for Sean Jones:

I know my brother was always very hard on his employees and that his maid was fed up with the poor treatment she was receiving. She feared Judge Jones and was sick and tired of his abuse towards her.

Clue #1 for Mr. Mult:

I know there are a lot of bad feelings between Mr. N and Judge Black. Judge Black is angry that Mr. N is in the process of revealing him and his corrupt group of friends to the public. I believe Judge Black would do anything to get revenge.

Clue #1 for Judge Black:

Mr. Fife has been a trusted employee of myself and Chief Justice Jones. Mr. Fife has access to the homes and offices of us both.

Clue's #2

Clue #2 for Mr. Fife:

I saw the maid running out of the house screaming, "the judge had been murdered!" as I was approaching the house.

Clue #2 for the Maid:

I found the body lying in a pool of blood.

Clue #2 for Sean Jones:

Tuesday evening I issued a press release announcing that my brother, the Chief Justice, had been murdered.

Clue #2 for Mr. Mult:

I found Mr. Fife lying unconscious next to the judge's dead body when I entered Judge Jones's home. I had him arrested and charged with murder.

Clue #2 for Judge Black:

Tuesday afternoon I heard Mr. N say that the Chief Justice had been murdered. I sent Mr. Fife to see if it was true.

Clue #2 for Mr. N:

At the press release I saw blood spattered on Sean Jones clothing.

Clue's # 3

Clue #3 for Mr. Fife:

I believe that the maid is the murderer. I saw her running out of the Chief Justice's house as I was approaching it. I know she hated her boss. I believe she ran out screaming that the judge had been murdered in order to throw suspicion from herself.

Clue #3 for the Maid:

I heard Judge Jones confront Judge Black about his involvement in a group conspiring to oust him from his office. I know Judge Black is corrupt and wants to be more powerful than he is. I believe Judge Black killed Judge Jones so that he could have his seat and also to prevent Judge Jones from exposing and punishing Judge Black and his group. **(Try to convince everyone that Judge Black is the murderer!)**

Clue #3 for Mr. N: I knew how badly the judge's brother, Sean, envied his position as Chief Justice. I know he always wanted the position for himself. I believe he killed him so that he could have position and power for himself, thus fulfilling his life-long dream. I believe the blood you saw on his clothing was his brother's blood. **(Try to convince everyone that Sean Jones is the murderer!)**

Clue #3 for Sean Jones:

I heard Mr. N say that Judge Jones was dead before the press release had been issued. I believe the only way that he could have known that he was dead prior to its being made public in the press release was if he was involved in the murder himself. I believe Mr. N hired Mr. Malt to kill Judge Jones and since Mr. Malt was the "hit man", I believe Mr. Malt should be charged with murder!

Clue #3 for Mr. Malt:

I found Mr. Fife lying unconscious next to Judge Jones corpse. I believe this proves that he killed him. Why else would he have been there? **(Strive to convince everyone that Mr. Fife is the murderer!)**

Clue #3 for Judge Black:

I heard Mr. N say that Judge Jones was dead before the press release had been issued. I believe that the only way that he could have known that he was dead prior to the press release was if he was involved in the murder himself. The problem is, he was with me at the time of the murder, so I know he couldn't have actually stabbed him. I figure he hired someone else to commit the actual murder. But, because it was all his idea, I believe that Mr. N should be charged with the crime of murder!



Narrator: This story is actually a true story that comes from one of the greatest books of all time. Many of you have probably read it at least once. Did anybody recognize the story? Let me tell you the story in a little different way.

There was a prophet a long time ago named Nephi. This Nephi was the son of Helaman and had at one time been a judge of the land. But because of the extreme iniquities of the people, Nephi gave up the judgment seat and spent all of his time preaching the word of God and trying to get his people to repent.

Of course, most of the people would not listen to Nephi. The Gadianton robbers were becoming more numerous and eventually took over the Nephite government. The people were "ripening in iniquity" as we hear it said in the scriptures. But Nephi did not give up. He continued to try to teach his people and warn them about their wickedness and the wickedness of their leaders.

There were many corrupt judges at this time who were part of the Gadianton robbers. Knowing that what Nephi was saying about them was true, and being fearful to do anything to Nephi themselves, they tried to incite the people to anger against Nephi.

"And it came to pass that thus they did stir up the people to anger against Nephi, and raised contentions among them; for there were some who did cry out; Let this man alone, for he is a good man, and those things which he saith will surely come to pass except we repent." (Helaman 8:7)

(Nephi walks out and says:)

NEPHI: "Behold, ye have rejected the truth, and rebelled against your holy God; and even at this time, instead of laying up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where nothing doth corrupt, and where nothing can come which is unclean, ye are heaping up for yourselves wrath against the day of judgment.

Yea, even at this time ye are ripening, because of your murders and your fornication and wickedness, for everlasting destruction; yea, and except ye repent it will come unto you soon.

Yea, behold it is now even at your doors; yea, go ye in unto the judgment seat, and search; and behold, your judge is murdered, and he lieth in his blood; and he hath been murdered by his brother, who seeketh to sit in the judgment seat.

And behold, they both belong to your secret band, whose author is Gadianton and the evil one who seeketh to destroy the souls of men." (Helaman 8:25-28)

Narrator: So it happened, that after Nephi had said these words, five men who were there decided to go to the judgment seat to see if the words of Nephi were true.

(Five men mingle together and say:)

Man #1: Now we will know of a surety whether this man be a prophet and God hath commanded him to prophesy such marvelous things unto us.

Man #2: We do not believe that he has, yea, we do not believe that he is a prophet.

Man #3: Nevertheless, if this thing which he has said concerning the chief judge be true, that he be dead, then will we believe that the other words which he has spoken are true.

(Five men act part as Narrator tells story)

Narrator: So the men ran with their might to the judgment seat, and sure enough, they found that the chief judge had fallen to the earth and was lying in his blood.

"And now behold, when they saw this they were astonished *(Act astonished)*, insomuch that they fell to earth *(fall to the ground)* for they had not believed the words which Nephi had spoken concerning the chief judge. But now, when they saw they believed, and fear came upon them lest all the judgments which Nephi had spoken should come upon the people; therefore they did quake, and had fallen to earth." (Helaman 9:4-5)

Now, let's back the story up a little bit. Immediately after the judge was murdered, and his servants discovered it, they ran and told the people. Meanwhile, the five men came, saw, and fell to the ground. Now let's pick up the story again.

(Group of people enter)

"And behold, the people did gather themselves together unto the place of the judgment seat and behold, to their astonishment they saw those five men who had fallen to the earth" (Helaman 9:7)

Now the people didn't know anything about the group across town who had been with Nephi when he prophesied the murder of the chief judge. So think of it from their perspective. The servants run out and tell everyone the chief judge has been murdered. The people run to see, and find these five men lying on the ground. What would you assume?

(Act out narration)

"they said among themselves: These men are they who have murdered the judge, and God has smitten them that they could not flee from us." (Helaman 9:8)

And so they grabbed the men, bound them, and cast them into prison (*grab men, tie rope around hands, and take them to "prison"*)