

DRAMA: JUST ONE MORE RIVER

(Use the Picture 'The River and the City of Gold')

Cast: Narrator, Christian, Hopeful and Voice/Farmer

Narrator:

Christian shakes his head...but the noise in his ears only grows louder....and he realises that he is listening to the sound of a rushing river.

Hopeful: *(tugging on his sleeve, pointing and gasping)*

There it is, Christian! There it is....the City....I can see the City! We've done it....we've arrived.

Narrator:

Almost directly in front of them....just a few miles away....the outline of the City of Gold is clearly visible.

Christian begins to run. Hopeful runs too, still clutching her friend's sleeve.

Christian:

We could be there in an hour or so....nothing can keep us from reaching it now....nothing!

Narrator:

The noise of rushing water grows louder....spray begins to wet their facesthe Straight and Narrow Way comes to an abrupt end....and they find themselves on the edge of the river....but there is no bridge....no visible way across.

Behind them a voice says:

Voice:

Cross over....the water is cold, but the prize is worth it!

Narrator:

The voice belongs to one of the white clothed farmers they had met earlier on in their journey....he seems surprised they should hesitate.

Christian:

Is the water very deep?

Farmer:

Here and there.

Hopeful:

Can we cross it on foot?

Farmer:

It's deeper in some places than others....it really depends on what faith you have in surviving. One way or another you have to try and cross - everyone does.

Narrator:

The river is deep and wide....tormented by currents and strong whirlpools. Hopeful sits down....dangles her feet in the water....and slips off the bank into the river. The water comes up to her neck. Christian....follows her....not so confidently....the cold water robbing him of his breath and he is hardly able to speak. He calls out....

Christian:

I'm drowning....I'm drowning....Save me!

Hopeful:

Don't panic....reach out to me....here....give me your hand! I'm on solid ground.

Christian:

Oh no....no....I'll drown....I'll drown....I know it!

I'd only drag you under....you cross over....leave me....I'm done for!

Hopeful:

Look yonder Christian! Look at the City! That's where we're going....soon we'll be there....just keep your eyes on the City.

Narrator:

He could see it....his unreachable goal....and just when he was about to go under....Hopeful wades over and rescues him.

Christian: (*gasping*)

You always had more faith than I did, Hopeful! Only *you* are meant to reach the City!

Hopeful:

This is only death, Christian....that's all. It comes to each of us. But it isn't the end for us....we're Pilgrims....we have further to go....we have to get to the City....we are expected....and the best is yet to be!

(*End of drama*)