

## Script for *The Bear and the Thorns*

Use finger puppets to act out the scenes as the narrator describes them.

**Characters:** narrator, a man, a bear

**Narrator:** A man lived in the forest.

**Man:** I need to drive to town to get some supplies.

**Narrator:** The man got in his truck and drove down the long highway to get to town. The first part of the highway was a dirt road, hugged by the forest.

**Man:** Wow. What's that? Why are those cars parked by the side of the road? What are they looking at? Should I stop?

**Narrator:** The man heard a still, quiet voice inside him. The voice of the Inner Master. The voice said, "Yes!" So, the man parked his truck and got out to see what was happening. He worked his way through the crowd of people.

**Man:** Excuse me...excuse me... [gasp] It's a bear!

**Narrator:** A big black bear was sitting up with its front paws in the air.

**Bear:** Grrr. [whining noises]

**Man:** Oh!

**Narrator:** Right away the man could see what was the matter. The bear had thorns in its paws!

**Bear:** {whining noises}

**Man:** I have pliers in my truck. I can help! But, this is a wild animal. [As the narrator speaks, the man acts out the actions below.]

**Narrator:** A feeling of warmth and love filled the man's heart. In his inner vision he saw the bear calmly hold out its paws and nod at him. So, the

man went to get his pliers and returned. He was able to go up to the bear and pull the thorns from its paws.

**Bear:** [run back into the forest]

**Man:** Well, that was an adventure! I guess I'll drive into town now.

**Narrator:** Three hours later the man finished his shopping and started home.

**Man:** Huh? Why are all these cars on the side of the road again?

**Narrator:** The man stopped and worked his way through the crowd.

**Man:** Excuse me...excuse me...Oh!

**Narrator:** The same black bear was there, looking intently at the face of every new person who joined the crowd. When the bear saw the man, it ran back into the woods.

**Bear:** [Look at each person in the audience, then look at the man and run back into the woods.]

**Man:** What's going on?

**Narrator:** A moment later the bear returned with two little baskets of blueberries put them down in front of the man.

**Bear:** [Puts the blueberries in front of the man.]

**Man:** Oh, wow!

**Narrator:** Now you might think that this story is impossible. As difficult as it may be to believe, these things happen. The man who helped the bear didn't have any fear because he was filled with love. One of the creatures of the ECK was in need of help, and he gave it. Since he gave his help as a gift of love, it had to be returned.

**Bear:** [Bow towards the man.] Thank you!

**Man:** And thank you!

— Adapted from the Illustrated ECK Parable, “*The Bear and the Thorns*,” by Sri  
Harold Klemp