

Encapsulated Season 3 Episode 9

FADE IN:

INT/EXT. VAN - DAY

The Gibson family and their mimics are driving to church, all sixteen of them crammed in the van.

The humans are yelling, name-calling, whining, arguing... Either with each other, or to themselves. Their mimics aren't as unruly, but the murmuring adds to the noise.

INT. CHURCH SERVICE - DAY

The family is seated quietly and politely in the pews, suddenly on their best behavior. They're lined up from youngest to oldest, wearing their nice Sunday clothes, and each member is sitting with their mimic.

There are a few hundred people gathered, and like the Gibson family, everyone else is sitting respectfully with their mimics.

PASTOR SKIP (46) is preaching at the pulpit. His mimic is also up front with him, but he doesn't have a microphone, so he's just murmuring quietly in the background while Pastor Skip teaches.

PASTOR SKIP

Good morning.

CONGREGATION

Good morning / Mrr mrr mrr.

PASTOR SKIP

It's great to see everyone. If this is your first time joining us, welcome, glad that you could make it. As you can see, we welcome and embrace EVERYONE, isn't that right?

(the congregation murmurs in agreement)

And on that note, we'll be continuing our series on hospitality. Turn with me to Genesis 18.

There's a rustling of pages as they all open their Bibles.

PASTOR SKIP

And while you're doing that, I'd like to read from Hebrews. This has been our core verse throughout this series. It's Hebrews 13:2.

(he reads the verse)

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing, some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

(he pauses)

And now to Genesis 18. Starting in verse 1.

(reads from his Bible)

And the Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre.

(pause)

Not to be confused with Mrr-mre.

The congregation chuckles.

PASTOR SKIP

And the Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre, while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance to his tent to meet them, and bowed low to the ground.

(pause)

He said: "If I have found favor in your eyes, my Lord, do not pass your servant by. Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed, and then go on your way - now that you have come to your servant.

(he stops and smiles at his mimic)

There's a lot to unpack there. Let's dive in.

INT/EXT. VAN - DAY

The family is driving back from church. It's like a repeat of the earlier scene: just as noisy and chaotic as before.

INT. GIBSON DINING ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY

The Gibsons and their mimics arrive back home as noisily as when they were in the van.

For reference, the family members are:

-- the father, MATTHEW (42) and the mother, LAUREN (40)
-- the children: PETER (18), RACHEL (16), LEVI (15),
ABIGAIL (13), JULIA (9), and CALEB (7).

Amidst the chaos and various conversations, Matthew grumbles loudly as he takes off his shoes.

MATTHEW

Alright, round 'em up.

MATTHEW'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr.

Levi springs into action.

LEVI

I got it!

LEVI'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr!

Levi gently guides his dad's mimic to the basement door.

Meanwhile, Peter is going around with duct tape, covering the mimics' mouths. He smirks at Levi while he tapes Matthew's mimic.

PETER

Suck-up. What are you, in love with them?

MATTHEW

Peter! Unacceptable! Don't joke about that!

Peter and Levi glare at each other, then Peter forcibly tapes Levi's mimic. Levi tries to hide his discomfort.

Peter smirks again, then leaves to tape the others. Levi continues to the basement with his dad's mimic.

In the kitchen, Lauren calls for help. She, Rachel and Abigail have already started making lunch.

LAUREN

Peter! Whatever happened to ladies first?

LAUREN'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr! Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr?

PETER

Coming, mom!

RACHEL

Hurry up...

RACHEL'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr...

ABIGAIL

Yeah.

ABIGAIL'S MIMIC

Mrr.

One by one, Peter tapes their mimics' mouths shut. Lauren is trying to cook, but her mimic keeps getting in the way.

LAUREN

Who's putting them away?

PETER

Who do you think?

LAUREN

Some time today, Levi!

Levi rushes in dutifully with his mimic.

LEVI

Sorry, mom. Come on, let's go.

He leads her mimic to the basement. Lauren is relieved and continues cooking. Rachel and Abigail are also frustrated with their mimics, and wait impatiently for Levi.

Back in the dining room, Matthew is seated at the table, reading a book: *Drawing the Line: When Hospitality Hurts*.

The two youngest kids, Julia and Caleb, are playing with their mimics. Julia and hers are just running giddily through the house, while Caleb and his are building Legos.

Matthew isn't amused.

MATTHEW

Julia, Caleb! What have we talked about?

JULIA

But I LIKE her!

JULIA'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr!

CALEB

We're making a spaceship!

CALEB'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr!

MATTHEW

That's enough, both of you. PETER!

PETER

Coming!

He chases after Julia and Caleb's mimics - the four 'kids' are running wild and giggling uncontrollably.

PETER

This isn't funny, stop it! DAD!

MATTHEW

CALEB! JULIA! ENOUGH!

They immediately stop running and march despondently towards Peter. He tapes their mimics' mouths shut.

MATTHEW

Finally...

Caleb walks away dejectedly. Julia looks like she's about to cry and begs her father to lighten up.

JULIA

But daaaaaad... Pleeeeeeease?

MATTHEW

You know the rules. How about you two go play outside, okay?

She and Caleb trudge slowly to the backyard. Peter is restraining their mimics so they don't follow them.

PETER

Go! They're done for today.

JULIA

That's not fair...

CALEB

I want him back.

Caleb and Julia look anxiously at their mimics, hoping Peter will let them go. He doesn't. Finally, they give up, and reluctantly go out to the backyard.

Peter lets go of the mimics, who immediately walk to the backyard door. But, out of sight, out of mind - Julia and Caleb quickly move on. They run around and play loudly in the backyard as if nothing was wrong.

Likewise, Matthew resumes reading as if nothing happened.

In the kitchen, Levi walks in to retrieve Abigail's mimic. Rachel's is already gone, although she can't help but criticize Levi.

RACHEL

Took you long enough...

ABIGAIL

Yeah.

Levi ignores them and leads Abigail's mimic away.

With all three mimics gone, the women finally feel free to talk openly with each other while they cook.

LAUREN

So, what did you ladies think of the sermon?

RACHEL

I think it's a misinterpretation. It's not like the aliens have a message from God, like, it's completely different for us.

LAUREN

I agree. Context is everything. Pastor Skip doesn't always take that into account.

ABIGAIL

Yeah.

RACHEL

And it's like, when do our actions become 'of' the world instead of 'in' it?

(Lauren and Abigail nod in agreement)

That's what's SO frustrating, everyone is 'nice' to the aliens not because they want to be, but because, like, they're trying to conform.

LAUREN

Amen. God won't be deceived.

RACHEL

Exactly. Like what Jesus says, if you hate somebody in your heart, don't pretend like you don't hate them in real life. Like, be honest, and let your 'no' be 'no'.

ABIGAIL

Yeah.

LAUREN

And I find it... It all saddens me, because for many people, it's based in fear. Sure, there are people like Pastor Skip who are deluded and they actually LIKE the aliens, for some reason, which is beyond me...

They all laugh.

LAUREN

But I feel terrible because most of them are AFRAID that if they're not kind, and if they don't PRETEND to get along, then the aliens will seek vengeance on them. Which is so sad...

RACHEL

Totally. Like sheep without a shepherd.

ABIGAIL

Yeah.

Back in the other room, Levi is moving both Caleb and Julia's mimics to the basement.

LEVI

Watch your step. Come on, keep walking.

Peter is at the table with Matthew. He waits until Levi is in the basement, then whispers to his dad.

PETER

You hear that? He treats them like they have feelings, it's messed up.

MATTHEW

Knock it off. He's still young. Besides, HE is actually HELPING. You're more than welcome to pitch in and speed things up.

PETER

No way, not touching them if I can help it.

MATTHEW

Attaboy.

(puts his book down)

But we need to talk about what you said earlier.

PETER

What? What did I say?

Levi returns and interrupts them by taking Peter's mimic.

PETER

Why do you always keep yours with you?

This whole time, Levi's mimic had been accompanying him. Peter glares at him smugly. Levi fumbles for an answer.

LEVI

Because he... It... I dunno, to mess with you?

MATTHEW

(waving him away)

You're fine, Levi.

PETER

Just keep your hands off mine, okay, perv?

Levi, embarrassed, takes Peter's mimic to the basement. Peter scowls at him as he walks away. Once Levi is gone, Matthew smacks Peter in the head with his book.

PETER

Ow! What??

MATTHEW

What is wrong with you? Do NOT joke about that. It's bad enough that the media encourages people to TOLERATE them. But to think you could have... Relations... It's not funny.

PETER

Yeah yeah...

MATTHEW

I'm serious. It's bestiality, and they're trying to normalize it like they always do. Now, I don't want to hear any more talk like that. Got it?

PETER

Understood. I'm sorry.

(Matthew glares at him)

Sir.

Matthew nods skeptically, then resumes reading. Peter sits silently for a bit.

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Meanwhile, in the vast, empty, dimly lit basement, Levi is tying Peter's mimic to the wall. All the other mimics are also tied to the wall, except for Levi's, who's standing beside him.

LEVI
(imitating Peter)
Why do you always keep yours with you?
(back to himself)
Jerk...

With Peter's mimic restrained, Levi carefully removes the duct tape from his mimic's mouth.

LEVI
(whispers)
You okay?

LEVI'S MIMIC
(whispers)
Mrr mrr mrr?

Levi sighs with relief, then hugs his mimic tightly. Finally, he lets go.

LEVI
I'm so sorry... Be good down here, okay?

LEVI'S MIMIC
Mrr mrr mrr... Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr?

Levi starts tying him up, and addresses the others.

LEVI
I'll be back tonight with food.

LEVI'S MIMIC
Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

The other mimics are shifting around, trying to get free. Levi looks at them empathetically, then reluctantly puts the duct tape back on his mimic's mouth.

LEVI

I'm sorry... I'll be back, I promise.

He looks once more at the mimics, and embraces his mimic one last time.

Then he turns around, and is startled to see Peter, who's waiting at the bottom of the steps. He's leaning against the wall and grinning at Levi insidiously.

PETER

You might have tricked mom and dad, but not me, fucking pervert.

Levi glares at him. Peter slowly walks over to Levi and towers over him menacingly.

Levi stares back, his fear turning to anger. Both of them are ready for a fight.

But then Peter turns to Levi's mimic, and insteads starts beating HIM. Levi rushes to his mimic's defense, but Peter shoves him aside.

PETER

You like that, huh?

(kicking and beating the mimic)

What are you gonna do, ask for help?

(turns to Levi)

I know YOU won't ask for help.

LEVI

(loudly)

DAD! Peter's making out with his alien!

MATTHEW

(from the dining room)

WHAT?! PETER! **GET UP HERE RIGHT NOW!**

Levi smiles at him and bolts upstairs. Peter immediately runs after him.

PETER

You little shit!

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

The boys both emerge from the basement door. Matthew looks at Peter with disapproval and disgust. Levi also pretends to be disgusted with him.

LEVI

Pervert...

Peter sneers at Levi, but Matthew isn't amused. He waits while Levi goes to the backyard, then rebukes Peter.

MATTHEW

Unacceptable. Go to your room.

(Peter groans)

Now! I can't believe you...

Peter angrily storms upstairs. Matthew continues reading.

Finally, the house is tranquil. The women are cooking, Matthew is reading, Levi is playing in the backyard with Julia and Caleb, and there's not a mimic in sight.

Matthew breathes deeply and smiles contentedly.

Then his phone rings. It's Pastor Skip.

MATTHEW

Good morning, pastor.

PASTOR SKIP (PHONE)

Hey there, Matt. Is this a bad time?

MATTHEW

Couldn't be better. We're just settling in for lunch. Great sermon today, we loved it!

PASTOR SKIP (PHONE)

Glad to hear. Hey, I know things have been a bit hectic the last three months.

MATTHEW

(chuckles)

Quite the times we're living in.

PASTOR SKIP (PHONE)

(also chuckles)

Indeed, indeed. But I feel bad, I want to get back in the habit of outreach, I feel like I've lost touch with the congregation.

MATTHEW

You've had a lot on your plate.

PASTOR SKIP (PHONE)

You can say that again...

(they both laugh)

Hope this isn't too last minute, but would you and Lauren mind if we stopped by in a few, and catch up with you all? If not, that's fine.

MATTHEW

(suddenly panicked)

No no, that's fine. You know Lauren, always has more than enough food.

Lauren pokes her head in and stares at Matthew in horror. He looks equally horrified.

PASTOR SKIP (PHONE)

Perfect! And again, we won't put you out, just trying to reconnect is all.

MATTHEW

I hear you. It'll be a good way to practice what we preach. Well, practice what YOU preach.

PASTOR SKIP (PHONE)

(laughs)

Good one! Alright, be there in five!

MATTHEW

We'll be ready!

He hangs up. Matthew seems frozen in place. Lauren is still standing across the room with her eyes wide open, shaking her head slowly as if to say 'this is a TERRIBLE idea'.

Matthew nods in agreement.

They only let themselves be stunned for so long, The clock is ticking!

MATTHEW

LEVI!!

LAUREN

(to the girls)

Get the extra chairs from the closet.

Rachel and Abigail go to the hall closet and start placing folding chairs around the table. Meanwhile, Levi runs in, along with Caleb and Julia.

LEVI

What's up?

MATTHEW

We need them back. No tape, upstairs. NOW.

Levi smiles excitedly, then quickly frowns.

LEVI

Fiiiine, I guess I can bring them up.

JULIA

Who's he bringing up?

Matthew turns to Julia and Caleb, then squats so he's at eye-level with them.

MATTHEW

You know Pastor Skip, right?

(they both nod)

He's coming over for lunch with his alien, so we're going to let OUR aliens out, and if you're both on your best behavior, we'll get ice cream after lunch! Now go help Levi!

JULIA/CALEB

Yaaaay!!

They both giggle with delight and run to the basement.

Peter has heard the commotion and is back downstairs.

PETER

What's going on?

MATTHEW

Get your alien, Skip is on his way.

(Peter looks at him skeptically)

Now! This isn't a joke.

PETER

Shit...

MATTHEW

Language! And hurry!

Peter runs anxiously to the basement. Meanwhile, Rachel and Abigail are finishing up with the chairs.

RACHEL

This is so unexpected. If he's testing us, it's like NOT cool.

ABIGAIL

Yeah.

LAUREN

Some time today, Levi!

LEVI

(from the basement)

We're almost done!

The family waits anxiously. The seconds tick by slowly.

At last, Levi and the others emerge from the basement with all eight mimics, no duct tape.

Levi tries to contain his excitement as the mimics happily disperse to each family member. Caleb and Julia run around and play with their mimics like before.

Everyone else is both annoyed and relieved. Right on cue, the doorbell rings.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Not long after, they're all sitting around the table, including their mimics, with Pastor Skip and his mimic.

PASTOR SKIP

Lord, we want to thank you for this meal. May it strengthen and nourish our bodies. And I want to thank you Lord for the Gibsons, and for their generosity and hospitality.

PASTOR SKIP'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

PASTOR SKIP

In your precious and holy name, amen.

PASTOR SKIP'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr.

FAMILY/MIMICS

Amen / Mrr mrr.

They all start dishing up their food. Although they don't have any plates for their mimics. Skip looks confused.

PASTOR SKIP

Are they not joining us?

Matthew and Lauren exchange concerned glances.

MATTHEW

Actually... We tried that, but, with six kids, grocery bill is high enough as it is.

MATTHEW'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr... Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

PASTOR SKIP

(chuckles)

Fair enough. If you don't have extra for him-

PASTOR SKIP'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr.

LAUREN

No no, you two help yourselves. There's plenty.
Like he said, I always have more than enough.

LAUREN'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

Once again, she and Matthew exchange tense looks. Luckily,
Pastor Skip is too busy getting food to notice.

PASTOR SKIP

Again, I hate to impose like this, but I've felt
disconnected since their arrival, been trying to
meet with families and touch base.

PASTOR SKIP'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr...

MATTHEW

You're not imposing, we're happy to host.

MATTHEW'S MIMIC

Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr.

There's a lull while everyone dishes up and starts eating.
Abigail, Rachel and Peter are sitting politely while
avoiding looking at their mimics.

Levi, meanwhile, is trying to conceal his amusement at the
irony of the situation.

And at the end of the table, Caleb and Julia are letting
their mimics eat off their plates.

PASTOR SKIP

So... Any exciting goings-on recently?

(pauses)

Other than the obvious?

PASTOR SKIP'S MIMIC

Mrr... Mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr mrr?

They all chuckle (most of them nervously). Lauren and
Matthew are at a loss. Thankfully, the kids chime in.

CALEB
I got new LEGOS!

CALEB
Mrr mrr mrr mrr!

The family laughs, mostly out of relief.

JULIA
(grinning widely)
And I lost my tooth!

JULIA'S MIMIC
(also grinning)
Mrr mrr mrr mrr!

Everyone laughs again. Pastor Skip is about to respond, when suddenly, without warning, the humans all pass out!

The room is eerily quiet. The mimics stand up and begin murmuring to each other, still smiling as usual.

Then they carry each of the humans, including Pastor Skip, down into the basement. They don't tie them up or tape their mouths shut, they just set them on the floor.

BEGIN MONTAGE

All around the world, similar scenes are unfolding. Humans have passed out, and their mimics are casually hiding them out of sight: in basements, closets, car trunks, wardrobes and storage units.

They're also freeing other mimics who've been trapped, releasing them from confinement and removing any ropes, duct tape, and restraints.

Finally, they activate cloaking shields on their ships. With the humans subdued and their ships hidden, they wait, but for what...?

FADE OUT.