

PARENTING 101

by Marlynnne Finch



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PARENTING 101

A collection of sketches
on child rearing

by Marlynne Finch

INTRODUCTION

These sketches were written and performed for use in a church setting for a parenting series of sermons. Some are lighthearted and some are serious, but all have something instructive to say about parenting — “the hardest job you’ll ever love.” Following is a listing of the seven sketches included here with a short description.

1. Parenting 101 — Dr. Wiseman overwhelms nervous expectant parents with tons of suggested reading.
2. Parenting by Comparison — Two moms one-up each other with their kids’ academic and sports successes.
3. Connecting Generation to Generation — A mom lists her parents’ flaws to a friend, oblivious that they’re present in her own parenting.
4. Not My Angel — A mom is in denial at a parent-teacher conference about her “precious” daughter’s bratty behavior.
5. The Circle — A teen shares how her parents’ protective circle has widened as she’s grown.
6. What Teens Really Want — Two busy parents equal one disillusioned teenager.
7. The Nanny Show — A proper British childcare worker discusses discipline with a hapless dad and his unruly ruffians.

Enjoy these easy-to-present sketches and the practical life lessons they offer to all of us in our parenting journey!

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1. Parenting 101

Synopsis: Mr. and Mrs. Witworth visit Dr. Wiseman to receive advice on parenting before they have a child. They soon realize that it is going to be much more difficult than they expect.

Cast:

Mr. and Mrs. Witworth — A young couple. They are anxiously looking forward to being parents.

Dr. Wiseman — May be either gender. He or she is very precise with words and actions.

Kathy — Secretary.

Children — Around ten preschool to grade school age, annoying.

Props: A telephone, papers, a watch, and a lot of books.

Set: A table or desk and three chairs.

(MR. and MRS. WITWORTH enter DR. WISEMAN's office.)

DR. WISEMAN: You must be my ten o'clock appointment.

MR. WITWORTH: Yes. I am John Witworth and this is my wife, Gayle.

DR. WISEMAN: *(Shaking their hands)* Nice to meet you. I'm Dr. Wiseman. Please have a seat and let's talk. *(They approach the desk and sit down. Picks up paper.)* Now it says here that you are expecting a baby soon. Congratulations!

MRS. WITWORTH: Thank you! We just found out, and we wanted to get a head start on all the parenting stuff.

DR. WISEMAN: Well, there *is* a lot to know.

MR. WITWORTH: Dr. Wiseman, we know that being a parent is a very important job, so we thought talking to a counselor ahead of time would prepare us to be the most effective parents that we can be.

DR. WISEMAN: You are being very wise in that decision. Now what would you consider to be your greatest fear?

MRS. WITWORTH: Well, John and I both feel that we need to decide how we'll train and discipline our child now so that we'll have a clear plan and we'll be on the same page when our son or daughter arrives.

MR. WITWORTH: That would be great!

1 DR. WISEMAN: Just a moment. (*Gets on phone.*) Kathy, would
2 you bring in that *Parenting with a Purpose* book series
3 for me? (*Pause*) Thank you. (*As DR. WISEMAN begins*
4 *talking, KATHY, the assistant, brings in stacks of books. She*
5 *makes several trips, and the stacks start piling up. The*
6 *WITWORTHS become very intimidated at the number of*
7 *books.*) Now, one of the most important things in
8 parenting is establishing the fact that you are the
9 parent. So many parents get caught up in the idea of
10 pleasing their children and doing everything they can
11 to keep them happy. It's nice to have a happy child, but
12 not at the expense of foregoing discipline and training.
13 You must always remember that you are their parent
14 and not their best friend. These books right here
15 explain all that and more.

16 MRS. WITWORTH: You mean you'd like us to read all these
17 books?

18 DR. WISEMAN: I realize this is a lot, but it does cover the
19 first six months.

20 MR. WITWORTH: Six months! All of this for just six months?

21 DR. WISEMAN: Hey — parenting is a serious matter.

22 MRS. WITWORTH: But I only have eight more months
23 before the baby is due. I don't know if we have enough
24 time to get through all these.

25 DR. WISEMAN: Sure you do. I also have another great series
26 of books for the six- to twelve-month age. Excuse me
27 just a minute. (*Picks up phone again.*) Kathy, can you
28 bring the truck around? (*Pause*) Yes — just back it up to
29 the door — or better yet, (*Holds the phone to speak to the*
30 *WITWORTHS*) do you drive a truck?

31 MR. WITWORTH: No.

32 DR. WISEMAN: (*Back on phone*) Kathy, just dump them at the
33 back door. Thank you.

34 MR. WITWORTH: Dr. Wiseman, we realize we have a lot to
35 learn, but a truckload?

36 DR. WISEMAN: This parenting experience is a very serious
37 matter.

38 MR. WITWORTH: We understand that, Doctor. I think we're

1 just a little overwhelmed. *(There is a truck noise and a big*
2 *bang.)*

3 **DR. WISEMAN:** That must be the books.

4 **MRS. WITWORTH:** I don't think we have room to take all
5 these books today.

6 **DR. WISEMAN:** That's OK. You can take the zero to six
7 months series, and I also have a wonderful surprise.
8 Experience counts a lot when it comes to parenting, so
9 we have a great program for that. You get to experience
10 the role of parenting for one week.

11 **MRS. WITWORTH:** And how do we do that?

12 **DR. WISEMAN:** With children, of course! *(Leans out the door*
13 *and calls out) Children! (Around ten preschool/grade school*
14 *age CHILDREN run in and attack the WITWORTHS, talking,*
15 *questioning, and generally annoying them.)*

16 **MRS. WITWORTH:** What?

17 **MR. WITWORTH:** We didn't agree to this!

18 **DR. WISEMAN:** *(Checks watch.)* Oh, look at the time! I'll see
19 you next week, same time, same place. 'Bye! *(Leaves*
20 *abruptly.)*

21 **MR. WITWORTH:** What do we do?

22 **MRS. WITWORTH:** On the count of three, we make a run for
23 it.

24 **MR. WITWORTH and MRS. WITWORTH:** *(Counting together)*
25 **One, two, three!** *(They run off with the CHILDREN chasing*
26 *them and screaming.)*

27

28

29 **2. Parenting by Comparison**

30

31 **Synopsis:** Two moms are watching their sons' soccer game. They
32 are looking out into the audience at the game and trying to
33 one-up their children in conversation.

34 **Cast:**

35 **Mom 1** — Loving mom who is trying desperately to encourage her
36 son and defend his ability.

37 **Mom 2** — Her life is her son. She loves to brag about him.

38 **Johnny** — A carefree little boy who wears a soccer uniform.

1 **Props:** Acorn.

2 **Set:** Two lawn chairs.

3

4 (*MOM 1 and MOM 2 sit on their lawn chairs at Center Stage.*)

5 **MOM 1:** You know, it sure would be nice if we could win at
6 least one game.

7 **MOM 2:** Well, at least we're on our side of the field for a
8 change. (*She stands up and yells at son.*) Kick that ball,
9 baby. Go!

10 **MOM 1:** That was close. (*MOM 2 sits down and takes a drink of*
11 *water like she is the one playing.*) Hey, did I tell you that
12 Johnny made the honor roll?

13 **MOM 2:** (*Uninterested*) That's nice.

14 **MOM 1:** We were so proud of him. Not one grade was below
15 a ninety percent!

16 **MOM 2:** Oh, that's good. Matthew made the superior honor
17 roll.

18 **MOM 1:** Really?

19 **MOM 2:** (*Acting like it's no big deal*) He didn't have anything
20 below a ninety-five.

21 **MOM 1:** That's great. (*Stands up and yells at JOHNNY and*
22 *motions.*) Johnny, you're going the wrong way. Pay
23 attention!

24 **MOM 2:** Matthew got picked Student of the Month this
25 month.

26 **MOM 1:** Oh ... Johnny got that one time last year.

27 **MOM 2:** So did Matthew. (*Stands up and yells at MATTHEW.*)
28 Way to go, Matthew. Way to steal that ball!

29 **MOM 1:** What did Matthew do for a science project?

30 **MOM 2:** Oh, uh, he created an alternative universe. What did
31 Johnny do?

32 **MOM 1:** He created a volcano.

33 **MOM 2:** That's sweet.

34 **MOM 1:** It was voted best project in his class.

35 **MOM 2:** Matthew received that award ... what is it? Oh, the
36 Presidential Science Award. He got a letter from the
37 President and everything.

38 **MOM 1:** (*Has become very frustrated. Stands up and yells at*

1 JOHNNY.) Johnny, what are you doing? You're running
2 the wrong way again! (*JOHNNY comes running down the*
3 aisle and up to stage with an acorn in his hand.) Go back and
4 play!

5 JOHNNY: But Mom, look what I found. It's one of those
6 weird acorns like I found in the woods behind our
7 house.

8 MOM 1: (*Losing all patience*) Johnny, this is a soccer game, not
9 a nature hike. Would you please go back on the field
10 and find a ball this time?

11 JOHNNY: (*Disappointed, he walks off.*) OK ...

12 MOM 1: Hurry! (*Back to MOM 2*) I don't know what that boy is
13 thinking.

14 MOM 2: Maybe he should take some private lessons.

15 MOM 1: Private lessons?

16 MOM 2: That's what we did for Matthew. That's why he's so
17 good.

18 MOM 1: Oh.

19 MOM 2: He was voted Most Improved Player on his team last
20 year.

21 MOM 1: (*She realizes that MOM 2 is really not paying attention to*
22 *what she is saying and is only thinking of her kid, so she pulls*
23 *one over on her.*) You don't say. Well, Johnny was voted
24 Worst Player of the Year last year.

25 MOM 2: That's nice.

26 MOM 1: The coach said he had the soccer ability of a pencil.

27 MOM 2: (*Watching game*) That's sweet.

28 MOM 1: We thought so too. We framed the award and put it
29 on his wall so he could remember just how bad he was.
30 We even bought him a special pencil set to remind him
31 of his ability.

32 MOM 2: (*She hears the end of the sentence.*) A what?

33 MOM 1: Oh, look — the game's over. I would love to sit and
34 chat about all of Matthew's accomplishments, but I
35 need to get going. (*Packing up stuff*)

36 JOHNNY: (*Runs up.*) Mom! That boy hit me in the head with
37 the ball.

38 MOM 2: Let me see, Little Johnny.

1 **MOM 1:** (*Grabs him to leave.*) **Little Johnny is fine!**

2 **JOHNNY:** **But Mom, my head!**

3 **MOM 1:** (*Leaving the stage*) **There is going to be a lot more**
4 **hurting than your head if you don't get moving.**

5 **MOM 2:** 'Bye! See you next week! (*Puzzled*) I wonder what
6 **she's uptight about?** (*Looks off in the distance.*) **There's my**
7 **perfect kid!** (*Calling to him*) **I'll meet you at the car,**
8 **sweetie!** (*She exits.*)

9

10

11 **3. Connecting Generation to Generation**

12

13 **Synopsis:** A mom discusses her childhood during a phone
14 conversation with a friend. As she describes all her parents'
15 flaws, she unwittingly proves their presence in her own
16 personality.

17 **Cast:**

18 **Mom**

19 **Dad**

20 **Child** — Either gender

21 **Props:** Telephone and watch for Mom and golf clubs or golf attire
22 for Dad.

23 **Set:** Chair for Mom.

24

25 (*Telephone rings.*)

26 **MOM:** (*Walks On-stage and sits down to chat.*) **Hello?** (*Pause*) **Hey,**
27 **Susan. I'm fine. How are you?** (*Pause*) **Good.** (*Pause*) **No,**
28 **you're not bothering me. I was just making the beds.**
29 (*Pause*) **Trust me, I'm not like that. Growing up, my**
30 **mother used to drill us like an army sergeant. I felt like**
31 **it was inspection time every morning.** (*Pause*) **Me too. I**
32 **used to hate that.** (*CHILD walks in during conversation and*
33 *gets MOM's attention. She notices CHILD.*) **Just a minute,**
34 **Susan.** (*Holds phone away.*) **What is it?**

35 **CHILD:** **Can I go outside and play?**

36 **MOM:** **Is your room cleaned up?**

37 **CHILD:** **Yes.**

38 **MOM:** **Is your bed made?**

- 1 CHILD: Yes.
- 2 MOM: Are the corners tucked under?
- 3 CHILD: Yes.
- 4 MOM: Is the top folded down?
- 5 CHILD: Yes.
- 6 MOM: Are there four pillows on your bed?
- 7 CHILD: Yes.
- 8 MOM: I'll come look in a minute, and then we'll see. (*CHILD*
- 9 *walks off, frustrated. MOM speaks into phone again.*) Sorry,
- 10 Susan. I did too. I felt like I was being raised in the
- 11 service or something. (*Pause*) No, my dad wasn't like
- 12 that. He was the type that got real quiet when he was
- 13 mad. He would use all these one-word sentences. Yeah.
- 14 It used to drive my mother crazy. Oh, me too. (*DAD*
- 15 *enters to tell MOM something.*) I'm sorry, Susan. Can you
- 16 hold on a minute? It's Grand Central Station around
- 17 here. (*To DAD*) What?
- 18 DAD: I'm going to hit some balls with John.
- 19 MOM: (*Like she doesn't care*) So?
- 20 DAD: Are you upset with me?
- 21 MOM: No.
- 22 DAD: Are you sure? (*MOM shrugs shoulders and blows air out in*
- 23 *frustration.*) Do you want me to stay?
- 24 MOM: Whatever.
- 25 DAD: Then I'm going.
- 26 MOM: (*Crosses arms, frustrated.*) Fine.
- 27 DAD: Fine. (*He leaves.*)
- 28 MOM: Good. (*Back to phone*) Anyway, what were we talking
- 29 about? Oh, my father. Yours did that, too? (*Pause*) I
- 30 know. My dad would be real quiet, then someone would
- 31 do something minor, and he would blow. (*CHILD starts*
- 32 *tapping MOM on the shoulder.*) It usually happened to my
- 33 little brother. (*Pause*) Yeah, he would just be sitting
- 34 there, then boom — (*Yells at CHILD.*) What is it? Can't
- 35 you see I'm on the phone? Don't you have something to
- 36 do?
- 37 CHILD: (*Taken by surprise*) I was waiting for you to come and
- 38 look at my room.

MOM: *(Still yelling)* Give me just a minute. Let me have one conversation with a friend without being interrupted. *(CHILD walks off.)* Are you still there? No, it was just my daughter. *(Or son. Pause)* Me, too. I am so thankful I didn't turn out like my parents. Thank goodness we don't inherit all their qualities. We would be a mess! *(Looks at watch.)* I have to take Mandy *(Or Michael)* to soccer practice, so I'll talk to you later. *(Pause)* Yes, you too. 'Bye.

4. Not My Angel

Synopsis: This sketch shows how parents are sometimes blind to the behavior of their children.

Cast:

Mrs. Jones — A very proper and loving teacher.

Mrs. Precious Adell — An over-the-top southern belle who is the mother of Angel.

Angel — A kindergarten to second-grade child who is bratty or charming, depending on who is looking.

Props: Miscellaneous papers and files.

Set: A desk and two chairs.

(MRS. JONES is at her desk looking over papers when PRECIOUS enters the room.)

PRECIOUS: Excuse me, are you Mrs. Jones?

MRS. JONES: Yes, I am. *(Gets up to shake her hand.)* You must be Angel's mother.

PRECIOUS: Yes, I am Mrs. Adell, but you can call me Precious.

MRS. JONES: Precious?

PRECIOUS: Yes. My name is Precious Adell.

MRS. JONES: Oh ... That's very unusual. *(Shows her a chair.)* You may have a seat right here. Let me pull out Angel's file. *(Looks through the papers.)*

PRECIOUS: You know, Mrs. Jones, Angel just loves you to death. She thinks you just hung the moon.

1 MRS. JONES: That's sweet, Mrs. Adell.

2 PRECIOUS: Call me Precious.

3 MRS. JONES: (*Reluctantly*) Precious ... OK. (*Sits down to talk*
4 *seriously.*) Now, I know that —

5 PRECIOUS: (*Interrupts*) Before you get started, let me say I
6 know that my Angel has a little extra energy, but she is
7 so creative with her energy that I just hate to put a
8 thumb on it, you know?

9 MRS. JONES: My problem, Mrs. — (*PRECIOUS looks at her as*
10 *if to say, "No, call me by my first name"*) Precious, is that I
11 have twenty-two children to handle.

12 PRECIOUS: I know. I know that's a problem. I don't know
13 why they give you that many children. My Angel needs
14 that attention.

15 MRS. JONES: Yes, she does, but where we are at now is that
16 she has become the ... the class bully.

17 PRECIOUS: Did you say bully?

18 MRS. JONES: Yes, I did.

19 PRECIOUS: Well, Mrs. Jones, I am a little taken aback by
20 that.

21 MRS. JONES: Well, it's the truth.

22 PRECIOUS: (*Thinking*) Maybe you're just misunderstanding
23 the authority in her voice. (*Getting patriotic and emotional*)
24 Maybe she's just trying to step up to be that leader that
25 our country so desperately needs.

26 MRS. JONES: (*Exasperated*) Mrs. Adell.

27 PRECIOUS: Call me Precious.

28 MRS. JONES: Mrs. Adell, your Angel has punched Bobby in
29 the nose, tripped Jason as he walked to his desk, and
30 tied Samantha's pigtails in a knot so tight that it took
31 the counselor an hour to get them untangled. She spit
32 on Timothy, she knocked Amy off the swing set, she
33 took John's art project and tore it into pieces, she
34 hung —

35 PRECIOUS: OK, OK, OK. My problem here is that maybe
36 she's misunderstood, you know?

37 MRS. JONES: No, I don't know that. What I do know is that
38 we have a major problem, and Angel will not be in this

1 school much longer if her behavior does not change
2 drastically.

3 **PRECIOUS:** (*Changes her attitude.*) Mrs. Jones, how are you
4 *really* doing? Is everything OK with you? You know,
5 (*PRECIOUS pats her own heart*) in here?

6 **MRS. JONES:** I am fine, and this is not about me! This is
7 about Angel.

8 **PRECIOUS:** And speaking of Angel, I would like for her to
9 come join us.

10 **MRS. JONES:** Fine. (*Calls out the door.*) Angel! Would you
11 come here, please? (*ANGEL enters with an attitude, then*
12 *notices her MOTHER and straightens up.*)

13 **ANGEL:** Yes, ma'am?

14 **PRECIOUS:** Mrs. Jones here says that you've been hitting
15 kids, pushing kids, and being very mean. Is that true?

16 **ANGEL:** No, ma'am.

17 **PRECIOUS:** There you have it. Not my sweet angel.

18 **MRS. JONES:** Mrs. Adell, I think you need to go speak to the
19 principal.

20 **PRECIOUS:** No, I don't. I am going to take my Angel here
21 and go find a school that appreciates creative energy
22 and leadership skills. Come on, Angel, and get your
23 stuff.

24 **ANGEL:** Yes, ma'am.

25 **PRECIOUS:** Thank you, Mrs. Jones, for your time. Speaking
26 friend to friend here, maybe you need to go speak to
27 someone about all your hostility.

28 **MRS. JONES:** I am fine! (*PRECIOUS and ANGEL start walking*
29 *off.*)

30 **ANGEL:** Just a minute, Mommy. (*Walks over to MRS. JONES'*
31 *desk and says sweetly*) I'm going to miss you, Mrs. Jones.

32 **PRECIOUS:** (*Stops at door, looks back, and says proudly*) My
33 Angel. (*She exits.*)

34 **ANGEL:** (*Right after her MOTHER exits, she hollers*) **Not!** (*She*
35 *runs Off-Stage.*)

36

37

38

5. The Circle

Synopsis: This sketch depicts parental discipline as being a protective circle around a child. As the child grows, so does the responsibility of the child to control his or her behavior. The cycle continues when the child grows up and has his or her own child to “circle around.”

Cast:

Teen — Either gender

Children — Ten to twenty, to form a circle around the Teen. (Older people may be used instead if preferred.)

(The TEEN is at Center Stage. The CHILDREN hold hands and form a circle around TEEN. As the TEEN speaks, the circle changes to match the lines. If he or she says “bigger,” the CHILDREN make the circle wider. If he or she says “smaller,” the CHILDREN make it smaller.)

TEEN: When I was born, my parents placed a circle around me. It was a very small circle, *(CHILDREN circle tightly around TEEN)* but it was nice and cozy. As I grew older, the circle grew bigger. *(CHILDREN expand circle a bit.)* There was a little more space to play; a little more room to move around. I stayed only inside the circle, but that was OK with me.

Well, time passed, and I began to notice all the things that were happening outside my circle. Hmmm. There seemed to be a lot I didn’t know about. So one day I decided to go see what all the commotion was about. *(TEEN ducks under CHILDREN’s arms to outside of circle.)* As I moved outside the circle, I wondered — should I really do this? Oh, why not! I looked around, and it seemed like everyone was having a good time, but I sensed that I’d better go back. *(She or he goes back under the CHILDREN’s arms to the middle of the circle.)*

My circle became a little bigger, but I became even more curious. So, again I moved outside the circle. *(She or he steps outside the circle.)* It was fun. But kind of like the way the waves push you out to sea, I felt like I was

moving farther away. So again I went back inside the circle. *(He or she returns to the inside of the circle.)* You know, there was something about the outside. I couldn't quite put my finger on it. It drew me, and I went — but I always came back. *(Returns to center of circle.)* I had a friend who went outside her circle and never came back again. In fact, I never heard from her again. And then other people ... well, let's just say they never had a circle to begin with.

There were times when I would go, and then when I came back, my circle was smaller. *(CHILDREN close their circle in around TEEN.)* That was very irritating. But no matter what drew me out, I always knew deep in my heart that this was where I was safe and where I was loved.

One day I'm going to wake up and the circle will be gone. *(The CHILDREN unwind the circle and exit.)* It's a crazy world out there, and I'm still learning how to deal with it. One thing I do know is that I will have to make a circle of my own one day, and then *I'll* have to decide how big or small the circle will be around my own child.

6. What Teens Really Want

Synopsis: Two teenagers from totally different families are talking on the phone. It is obvious from the conversation that one is loved and cared for while the other one is left to her own devices by parents too busy to care. The attention, love, and discipline that Teen 1 has is what Teen 2 craves. What teens really need is what they really want.

Cast:

Teen 1 — Doesn't appreciate her parents' love and discipline.

Teen 2 — Craves attention and love from her parents.

Set: An empty stage. The actors are heard but not seen.

(A telephone rings.)

TEEN 1: Hello?

- 1 TEEN 2: Hey, what are you doing?
2 TEEN 1: What do you think I'm doing?
3 TEEN 2: I don't know.
4 TEEN 1: I'm sitting in my room in the dark.
5 TEEN 2: What's going on?
6 TEEN 1: This is what happens when I get home an hour late!
7 TEEN 2: You weren't an hour late.
8 TEEN 1: Yes, I was! That clock in your stupid car doesn't
9 work.
10 TEEN 2: Well, at least my car has wheels, which is more than
11 I can say for yours.
12 TEEN 1: I don't even have my license yet, so what does it
13 matter?
14 TEEN 2: And this is the thanks I get for hauling you around.
15 TEEN 1: Look — when I walked in the house last night, it
16 was midnight.
17 TEEN 2: And so your parents put you in your room and
18 turned off the electricity?
19 TEEN 1: No ... I'm in my room and they took away all the
20 things that aren't supposedly necessary.
21 TEEN 2: Isn't electricity necessary?
22 TEEN 1: According to them, no, and neither is my iPod, my
23 computer, my TV, my radio, and all the other stuff I
24 have.
25 TEEN 2: Man, your parents are serious.
26 TEEN 1: Seriously insane.
27 TEEN 2: How are you talking to me on the phone?
28 TEEN 1: I snuck the phone out of my sister's room.
29 TEEN 2: You better put it back. Your parents are liable to
30 take your walls next.
31 TEEN 1: Why not? They already took my door. Why did you
32 call, anyway?
33 TEEN 2: Well ... my brother got arrested last night.
34 TEEN 1: What?!35 TEEN 2: Yeah. Some cop pulled him over for speeding and
36 found some marijuana in his car.
37 TEEN 1: Are you serious?
38 TEEN 2: Yes!

- 1 TEEN 1: You don't do that stuff, do you?
- 2 TEEN 2: No. I'm not crazy!
- 3 TEEN 1: Did your parents go ballistic?
- 4 TEEN 2: No ... they're out of town. They said that they had
- 5 two more days of meetings and they would deal with
- 6 him when they got home.
- 7 TEEN 1: So you two are at home by yourselves?
- 8 TEEN 2: No, my uncle's there, but he can't tell whether we're
- 9 coming or going.
- 10 TEEN 1: That's no fair. I'm an hour late, and you would have
- 11 thought I committed murder or something. And your
- 12 brother gets arrested, and where is he?
- 13 TEEN 2: I don't know. I think with his girlfriend. But hey —
- 14 at least you have somebody, you know, who, uh ...
- 15 TEEN 1: What?
- 16 TEEN 2: Oh, nothing. What is your mom fixing for dinner?
- 17 TEEN 1: I don't know. Probably bread and water ... why?
- 18 TEEN 2: She always fixes good food. I get so sick of
- 19 microwave dinners.
- 20 TEEN 1: Well, I would invite you over, but I'm not even
- 21 supposed to be on the phone with you. What are you
- 22 doing tonight?
- 23 TEEN 2: I don't know. I'll find something. Hey, tell your dad
- 24 I nearly made four three-point shots in a row yesterday.
- 25 TEEN 1: My mom is calling me. I'd better go.
- 26 TEEN 2: OK.
- 27 TEEN 1: Why don't you fix that clock in your car tonight?
- 28 TEEN 2: Sure thing. Right after you buy some tires for
- 29 yours.
- 30 TEEN 1: Later.
- 31 TEEN 2: Later. Oh, hey ... Can I come by tomorrow? Hello?
- 32 Hello? (*Hangs up and sighs.*) Never mind.
- 33
- 34

35 7. The Nanny Show

36

- 37 **Synopsis:** This is a knock-off of those shows that feature a British
- 38 nanny dispensing child rearing advice. There is a description

1 of each video, and they may be prerecorded on a regular video
 2 camera in actual homes. An imperfect quality makes it even
 3 funnier.

4 **Cast:**

5 **The Nanny** — Very much in control and very proper. She wears a
 6 suit and glasses.

7 **Mr. Fester** — A father who really isn't committed to working very
 8 hard. He wears sweats.

9 **Children** — Five or six (for video clips only).

10 **Props:** (For video clips) Bag of candy for #1, a TV for #2 and #5, and
 11 miscellaneous textbooks, notebooks, and pens on a table for #3.

12 **Set:** Two stools.

13

14 (*Opening theme music plays for the show and the NANNY*
 15 *walks On-Stage.*)

16 **NANNY:** Welcome to *The Nanny Show*. As you know, each
 17 week we take a look at a family and see what we can
 18 learn when it comes to raising children. Today we will
 19 be discussing the dos and don'ts of discipline. Please
 20 welcome my special guest, Mr. Fester. (*MR. FESTER*
 21 *walks in and sits down with the NANNY.*) Welcome to the
 22 show.

23 **MR. FESTER:** Thank you very much.

24 **NANNY:** Last week we came to your house and spent some
 25 time with you and your family.

26 **MR. FESTER:** Yes, you did.

27 **NANNY:** What we would like to do today is watch some
 28 video and then discuss several areas that you seem to
 29 be struggling in as a parent.

30 **MR. FESTER:** OK. I didn't realize that you found any, but
 31 I'm open to listening.

32 **NANNY:** Great! Let's start with problem number one.

33

34 **Video clip #1 — "We Want Candy!"**

35 (*Five or six CHILDREN cluster around MR. FESTER asking*
 36 *for candy. When he says no, their voices get louder and louder:*
 37 *We want Candy! We want Candy! MR. FESTER finally says*
 38 *OK. He dumps a whole bag of candy on the floor. Video freezes.*)



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CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS LLC
P.O. Box 248 - Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406
Toll Free: 844-841-6387 - Fax 319-368-8011
customerservice@christianpub.com