

SEA COWS, ANYONE?

by Barbara Vander Haar



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INTRODUCTION

In the beginning . . . there was laughter! Isn't that a quote from somewhere? Well, if it isn't, it *should* be. And therein lies the FUN-damental truth of a youth group.

As my husband and I have led a youth group for two mind-warping, boredom-busting, friendship-building, brain-frying and everything-but-dull two years now, we could fill reams of pages with insights and wisdom for would-be youth group leaders. To summarize the most profound advice we have to offer in a nutshell, *don't do it!* That is, unless you have the patience of Job, the wisdom of Solomon, the longevity of Methuselah, and the brain of an orangutang. (We have found by trial and error the last quality to be the most essential.) Gee, I hope I didn't sound too idealistic.

In all seriousness, if there is to be *any* seriousness that comes out of a roomful of teenagers, some of our most meaningful moments have come from the skits we have done together. In the skits, we have shared laughter, work, prayer, and the opportunity to minister to others as we strive to do the best that we can do. All this, in addition to that final, grand moment that exhilarates us the most . . . performing for a live audience! (Much better than the dead kind, which is not given much to hand-clapping or standing ovations or any such thing.)

Each skit was written for low budgets, no budgets, any kind of stage, and minimal props. Specific instructions precede each script. Hopefully, each skit does contain maximum laughs and a message at the end that won't miss its target. And yes, it's all right for Christians to laugh! Even the most stoic of us has to admit that God made some pretty strange and amusing things in this world. Uh . . . he made teenagers, didn't he?

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Can Anybody Tell Me Where to Find a Good Shrink?

Sea Cows, Anyone?

Weird Parents . . . and Their Kids!

Where's Your Guarantee?

How Did You Get to Be So Lovely?

Can Anybody Tell Me Where to Find a Good Shrink?

THEME: Jesus gives us reason to live.

CAST: BRIAN, PAT, DR. QUACK, NURSE, CHRISTIAN MAN.

PROPS: Two folding chairs, one Center Stage and one Stage Left; sign that reads "Shrink"; kitchen gadgets and tools for doctor; small table; animal or other unusual masks propped up on a table; tablecloth or other fabric to cover masks; notepad and pen; diving flippers for doctor's feet; large magnifying glass for Christian man; Bible.

COSTUMES: DOCTOR and NURSE should dress in white. DOCTOR wears flippers on his feet. Other characters require no special dress.

SETTING: DR. QUACK's office.

AT RISE: BRIAN is sitting in chair, Center Stage. His head is down, and he is moaning.

PAT: *(Enters, humming happily. Stops and observes BRIAN momentarily. To audience)* What a miserable human being. He must be ill. I certainly hope he doesn't try to ruin my day! *(Calls out to BRIAN)* I say, miserable human being, are you ill?

BRIAN: *(Barely looks up to acknowledge PAT)* Oh, it's you, Pat. Yes, I am ill. I am very, very ill. I'm so very very very very ill! *(Continues to moan and groan)*

PAT: *(Sighs. To audience)* I guess you all expect me to play the Good Samaritan. OK, I'll play along. *(Mock concern)* Oh, Brian dear. What can I do? What can I say? *(Shrinks back)* Is it contagious?

BRIAN: There's nothing to do, nothing to say. It's all useless. Hopeless, meaningless! *(Sighs)* Nothing means anything. Everything means nothing.

PAT: I hope you don't expect me to understand that.

BRIAN: Forget it. How can I expect you to understand the

1 depth of my despair?

2 **PAT:** I think you're trying to ruin the perfectly good mood I
3 came in here with. *(Looks at her watch.)* OK Brian, the Good
4 Samaritan game is over! Look, there's places to go, people
5 to meet, and parties waiting to happen! Spit it out, will
6 ya? I haven't got all day! *(Pauses, as she waits.)* What's wrong
7 with you?!

8 **BRIAN:** You want to know... you want to know what's
9 wrong with me? I'll tell you. I'll tell you, all right!
10 It's... Life!

11 **PAT:** *(Incredulous)* Life? Why, I think life is wonderful! I can't
12 think of a better way to live, actually.

13 **BRIAN:** Listen, Pat. We eat, we breathe, we die. And for what?
14 Tell me that, you despicably cheerful person, you! I mean,
15 if I was born to die anyway, why am I here? Why is this
16 chair here? *(Pauses)* Why are you here?

17 **PAT:** *(Thoughtful pause)* I really don't know why I'm here! But
18 I can fix that real fast. Toodle-oo, sourpuss! I'm outta here!
19 *(Starts to leave)*

20 **BRIAN:** Wait! Don't go! Please... *(Grabs her hand, begging)*
21 Before you go, at least tell me where to find some answers.
22 Tell me who knows what life is all about. Tell me what
23 there is to be happy about!

24 **PAT:** *(Shakes her hand loose)* Brian, you want to know what's
25 wrong with you? I'll tell you. Your head isn't screwed on
26 right. If I were you, I'd get myself right on over to a doc-
27 tor... you know, a shrink. You're too loony for me, buddy!
28 See ya. *(Exits, shaking her head.)*

29 **BRIAN:** *(To himself. While he is talking, NURSE comes out and*
30 *tapes a sign, "Shrink," onto wall, right over a chair. NURSE*
31 *exits.)* She thinks I'm nuts. She really thinks I'm... gosh,
32 maybe she's right! In that case, I'd better get to a doctor
33 real fast. I know I can't go on like this; I'll go crazy for
34 sure... but where can I find a good... *(He sees the sign,*
35 *looks startled, and wanders over to it, then sits down on the*

- 1 chair. The NURSE comes bustling back out.)
- 2 NURSE: Dr. Quack will be right with you. (She stands to the
3 side.)
- 4 BRIAN: (Incredulous) Dr. Quack?
- 5 (DOCTOR comes out, wearing flippers on his feet. He is busily
6 writing on his chart. Does not look up yet. A weird assortment
7 of household gadgets hang about his neck and out of his pockets.
8 Examples: funnel, tape measure, hammer, pliers, spatulas, etc.)
- 9 DOCTOR: (Goes up to NURSE, thinking she is the patient. Speaks
10 with a goofy accent.) So, let me take a look at new patient!
11 (Starts to measure her forehead)
- 12 NURSE: (Rolls her eyes) No, Dr. Quack! I'm the nurse; that is
13 your new patient.
- 14 DOCTOR: Oh, yes! Very good! Very good! So . . . are you
15 bananas, too?
- 16 BRIAN: What? What did you say?
- 17 DOCTOR: (To NURSE) He bananas, and he don't hear so good.
18 (Writes in his notebook) Well, let Dr. Quack take a gander.
19 (Laughs crazily) Get it? Take a "gander"! (Looks at BRIAN's
20 ears with funnel, uses other household gadgets to tap his head,
21 etc.) Hmmmm. Just as I thought! No doubt about it. This
22 is bad problem. Bad, bad problem!
- 23 BRIAN: Whatever it is, it can't make me feel much worse than
24 I do right now.
- 25 DOCTOR: Oh, this make you feel worse, OK.
- 26 BRIAN: (Gulps) Maybe I don't want to hear this.
- 27 DOCTOR: (Ignoring him) Your problem . . . it's all up on de top.
28 (Points to his own head) You head isn't screwed on right.
- 29 BRIAN: Somebody else said that. How bad is it, Doc?
- 30 DOCTOR: It's sooooo bad, I only see one case bad like this
31 before!
- 32 BRIAN: Where was that?
- 33 DOCTOR: In de San Diego Zoo, when a coconut hit a big
34 baboon on de noggin. He was reeeeeally cuckoo! (Pauses)
35 But . . . not to worry! We fix you right up. You feel real

- 1 good then!
- 2 **BRIAN:** Oh, please hurry up, Doc. I'll do anything . . . any-
 3 thing . . . to feel good again! If only I could feel like life
 4 was worth living. Tell me, Doc, can you even fix me up so
 5 I'll know all the answers to my own questions?
- 6 **DOCTOR:** I do better than that. I fix you up so you don't even
 7 ask any more questions! Now, no more babble babble.
 8 Close your eyes, this only hurt a little. *(Takes out hammer)*
- 9 **BRIAN:** *(Sees hammer. Shocked)* What's going to hurt a little?
 10 What do you think you're doing?
- 11 **DOCTOR:** Why, I going to operate, you goose.
- 12 **BRIAN:** Wait a minute! Who said anything about an operation?
- 13 **DOCTOR:** Well, my goodness! What do you think? You think
 14 I snap my fingers and you all fixed? Nooo, no, no, no, no!
 15 You need a new one, and that's all there is to it!
- 16 **BRIAN:** A new what?
- 17 **DOCTOR:** I said the problem in your noggin. So we give you
 18 a new one. A new noggin! We got lotsa them. *(NURSE*
 19 *whisks cover from a row of funny masks, which are stuffed or*
 20 *propped up so that they stand up.)*
- 21 **DOCTOR:** *(Continuing, not noticing BRIAN's look of horror)*
 22 Today your lucky day! Today we gotta nice trade-in. Trade
 23 in old, get new one for 10 dollah. *(Picks up one)* Here's a
 24 real good deal, just got it in from Taiwan today. Today
 25 only, you buy this one, we throw in one free. How you like
 26 that? *(Picks up another. Use a monkey mask, if possible.)* Here's
 27 our Friday night special . . . the girls will go ape over this
 28 one! *(Laughs at himself. Keeps rattling on as BRIAN backs*
 29 *away.)*
- 30 **BRIAN:** No, no! This is a nightmare! I've gotta get out of here!
 31 The man's a quack! Pat, where are you? *(Runs blindly in*
 32 *other direction. Bumps into a tall stranger who carries a Bible.)*
 33 Oomph! *(Tries to run around stranger)* I gotta get out of here!
 34 He's crazy! I'm crazy! The whole world's gone crazy!
- 35 **DOCTOR:** Wait! You forgot your bill! Get it? . . . quack . . .

1 **bill . . .** (*Laughs insanely, backing up into Exit. [Note: You can*
 2 *make a "duck bill" out of orange construction paper if you wish.*
 3 *DOCTOR can pull it from his pocket and stick it over his hand*
 4 *at the right moment.] DOCTOR and NURSE exit. NURSE dis-*
 5 *creetly carries masks out. Sign and chair can remain.])*

6 **MAN:** (*Enters and stops BRIAN*) Whoa! Calm down, son! What's
 7 wrong? Maybe I can help.

8 **BRIAN:** No. No help, please. I don't want a new noggin!

9 **MAN:** (*Confused*) A new . . . ? Calm down, will you? What's the
 10 problem? I'd like to help.

11 **BRIAN:** (*Calms down and breathes deeply*) Well, I've been feeling
 12 real bad lately, you know. Like life isn't worth living and
 13 all, and I went to this crazy doctor, see, and he said it's
 14 all in my head and I need a new one, so he showed me all
 15 of these awful heads, but he called them noggins and . . .
 16 and . . . and . . .

17 **MAN:** (*Takes out magnifying glass from his pocket*) Well, well,
 18 well. A very strange thing indeed! Let me see. Let's take
 19 a closer look. (*Looks at BRIAN's head, then moves over to his*
 20 *heart*) Yep! That's it. I think I know what's wrong with
 21 you, and it isn't in your . . . uh . . . noggin.

22 **BRIAN:** It isn't? Well, what is it then? Please, tell me! I'll do
 23 anything . . . (*Shudders as he looks over his shoulder where*
 24 *DR. QUACK was*) Well . . . *almost* anything . . . to feel happy
 25 again. What can I do?

26 **MAN:** You don't need a new head, you need a new heart!

27 **BRIAN:** A new . . . (*Starts to back off*) Oh, no. No operations!

28 **MAN:** (*Chuckles*) Don't worry! We don't need to operate. You
 29 just need to . . . cooperate!

30 **BRIAN:** Cooperate? With who?

31 **MAN:** With God! With Jesus!

32 **BRIAN:** Boy, I don't know. I've never met them.

33 **MAN:** Well, maybe it's time you did. Jesus can give you a new
 34 heart . . . a heart full of joy and gladness . . . if you let him in.

35 **BRIAN:** But . . . can he tell me why I'm here? Can he answer

1 all my questions? Can he give me reasons to live?
2 **MAN:** **Jesus will make your life worth living! And you'll find**
3 **all the answers you're looking for right here in his book.**
4 *(Gestures to Bible)*
5 **BRIAN:** *(Thoughtfully)* **You know, maybe you're right! My**
6 **friends couldn't help me. That crazy doctor sure couldn't**
7 **help me. Maybe . . . maybe I *should* ask Jesus. But . . . how**
8 **will I know where to find him?**
9 **MAN:** *(Smiles)* **Son, you don't have to worry. He'll find you.**
10 *(Pause)* **Come on, let's do a little reading! *(Holds up Bible)***
11 **What do you say?**
12 **BRIAN:** **I say . . . you're the first person I've talked to that had**
13 **his head screwed on right!**
14 **MAN:** **Is that so? *(Exit together, talking softly on way out)***
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Sea Cows, Anyone?

THEME: How should we give?

CAST: SCOTT; SUNBEAM and MOONBEAM, two girls dressed in outlandish clothes (Suggestion: Make stars from aluminum foil and cardboard. These can dangle from a headband. You could also paint the sun and the planets on the front of two white t-shirts.); MAN under the couch, wearing diving gear; PASTOR; KRIS, SCOTT's younger sister.

PROPS: Couch (or large chair); card table with long cloth; phone; several pieces of mail; one envelope painted or colored in tan and brown stripes (like a cat); trash can; large box containing several boxes of cookies; diving goggles, snorkles and flippers; pillow; phone; bell (man hiding under couch or table can ring bell to simulate phone ringing); bookbag.

SETTING: Living room. Couch or chair should be set up in Center Stage. If you do not have a couch for someone to hide under or behind, use the card table with a floor-length cloth covering it. The man can hide under the table, if necessary. Place this table close to SCOTT's chair. Phone is on table.

AT RISE: MAN is hiding under couch or table. SCOTT enters, carrying his bookbag, and peruses the mail.

SCOTT: *(Puts bookbag on floor and flips through mail)* Electric bill, phone bill, trash bill. Won't Dad be delighted! *(Puts them on table. Confused by one letter in the striped envelope, he gazes at it.)* This is a strange-looking letter. Something from the "Dead Cat Society"? *(Opens it, reads aloud)* "Dear Friend of Felines, Did you know that every year thousands of unsupervised cats roam dark alleys at night, are hounded by dogs, get squashed by speeding motorists, and often end up with a bad case of rigor mortis? For a small contribution of fifty dollars per month, you can support 'Cat Haven,' a home for unfortunate . . ." Oh, boy! *(Throws it dramatically into the trash can)* How did we ever get on a

1 **mailing list for cats? Good grief! All I really want to do is**
 2 **simply let my mind drift into oblivion . . . just like I do in**
 3 **Chem 101 every morning. Oh, what a day!** (*Lies down, fluffs*
 4 *up pillow, and sinks comfortably onto couch or chair. After ap-*
 5 *proximately ten seconds of complete relaxation, the phone rings.*
 6 *He groans, then puts the pillow over his head to drown out the*
 7 *noise, but obviously can't ignore it. He gets up, mildly annoyed,*
 8 *and answers it.*) **Hello? Hello? Yes . . . yes . . . who are you?**
 9 **What do you mean, I've won a trip to Shangri-La? Where**
 10 **is that, anyway? I only pay the thousand-dollar deposit**
 11 **plus plane fare? Well, just what if I don't want to go? Ex-**
 12 **cuse me . . . Listen, I'm under eighteen and my parents**
 13 **aren't at home and . . .** (*Sudden realization*) **This is a record-**
 14 **ing? Hey, if you think I'm going to talk to a recording**
 15 **you're . . .** (*Holds phone away from his ear, deadpans to audi-*
 16 *ence*) **I am talking to a recording.** (*Drops phone resoundingly*
 17 *onto receiver and pantomimes unplugging phone. Holds phone*
 18 *cord up high to show audience.*) **And now I am not talking to**
 19 **a recording . . . or anyone else!** (*Places cord on floor*) **Now**
 20 **maybe . . . just maybe . . . I can get some "R and R"!** (*Just*
 21 *as he gets comfortable again, he hears a loud knock on the door.*
 22 *Sits up and throws pillow on the floor.*) **If it's not the phone,**
 23 **it's the door!** (*Gets up, grumbling*) **I don't care who it is, I'm**
 24 **going to open that door and tell them to get lost . . .** (*Impa-*
 25 *tiently goes to door, opens it with a fling. Before he has a chance*
 26 *to say anything, two weirdly dressed girls step inside.*)
 27 **SUNBEAM: Greetings! I'm Sunbeam!** (*She bows.*)
 28 **MOONBEAM: And I'm Moonbeam!** (*She bows.*)
 29 **SUNBEAM and MOONBEAM: (Together) We're from the Age**
 30 **of Light, and we are here to enlighten you!** (*Then they alter-*
 31 *nate speaking, using exaggerated expression.*)
 32 **SUNBEAM: The Age of Light is happ'ning . . .**
 33 **MOONBEAM: 'Tis no time for napping!**
 34 **SUNBEAM: Wake up to new thoughts and dreams,**
 35 **MOONBEAM: Where things are never what they seem.**

- 1 **SUNBEAM:** (*Holding up booklet*) Read our booklet, then you'll
2 find . . .
- 3 **MOONBEAM:** Things that could just blow your mind!
- 4 **SUNBEAM:** Learn our secrets . . . come alive . . .
- 5 **MOONBEAM:** For just one dollar, twenty-five! (*MOONBEAM*
6 *holds out her hand for money.*)
- 7 **SCOTT:** No! No! (*Shuts door on them*) Go away! I don't want
8 any! All I want to do is rest! Do you hear me? Rest! (*Sits*
9 *on couch and puts his head in his hands.*) Why won't all the
10 crazies of the world leave me alone? (*Looks at audience*) I've
11 got to get myself under control. Now . . . the phone's un-
12 plugged, the door's locked. Nobody can bother me! (*Lies*
13 *down*) Oh, rest! Rest, rest, wonderful rest! (*Kisses his pillow*)
14 Oh, I love you, pillow. (*Gets comfortable*) It feels so good
15 to . . . (*He snores. Let ten seconds pass, then MAN pops out from*
16 *under couch or table. He wears goggles, a snorkle and flippers.*
17 *SCOTT screams.*)
- 18 **MAN:** (*Taking snorkel out to talk. Comes on strong*) Do you want
19 to see the oceans polluted? Acid rain ravaging the farmers'
20 crops? The ozone layer depleted?
- 21 **SCOTT:** (*Almost hysterical*) What? How did you get in here?
22 Get out! Get out! I'm calling the police! (*Holds up phone cord,*
23 *which he has unplugged*) Uh . . . as soon as I plug in the
24 phone.
- 25 **MAN:** Well, then maybe you would consider giving a generous
26 donation to save the baby sea cows from "udder" annihi-
27 lation?
- 28 **SCOTT:** No! No! I don't know any sea cows! And even if I did
29 I wouldn't admit it!
- 30 **MAN:** Well then, this is your lucky day! You can read all about
31 these little marine mammals in our book, *The Call of the*
32 *Cow.* (*Holds out book for SCOTT to take*) They're even talk-
33 ing about making a mooovie out of it! Get it? Mooovie?
34 Ha! Ha! It's an inside joke, son.
- 35 **SCOTT:** (*Starts to take it, then backs off*) It's a stupid joke! Why

1 am I talking to you, anyway? How did you get in here?
 2 Get out! Get out of here! I'll . . . I'll get my rusty pit bull
 3 out of the closet. I'll sic my ravenous piranhas that haven't
 4 eaten for a week on you! I'll . . .

5 MAN: *(On his way out the door)* Okay, okay, buddy. I can take
 6 a hint. *(Hesitates)* But at least give me the names, addresses
 7 and house keys of three of your friends . . .

8 SCOTT: No! I don't have any! Just . . . leave! *(MAN leaves.)* Go!
 9 Get out! *(Closes door, taking deep breaths)* I've got to call
 10 somebody . . . get some help. I think I'm going crazy! *(Plugs*
 11 *in phone and frantically dials.)* Hello? Pastor Bill? *(To audi-*
 12 *ence)* Oh, no! An answering machine at a time like this!
 13 Pastor! This is Scott. Please . . . please come over right
 14 away. I need you! *(Hangs up. Picks phone back up.)* This is
 15 an emergency! *(Sits down, head in hands. Speaks to himself)*
 16 Take it easy now, Scott. That's it, take a deep breath
 17 and . . . *(Immediate knock on door. SCOTT jumps up, startled,*
 18 *and picks up baseball bat.)* I'm ready this time! Just let me
 19 at 'em! *(Opens door and yells)* Okay, you money-grubbing
 20 pirate . . . *(Voice changes, embarrassed)* Oh, Pastor Bill, it's
 21 you! Sorry, I thought you were . . . never mind. How did
 22 you get here so fast?

23 PASTOR: Well, you said it was an emergency. What's up?

24 SCOTT: Oh Pastor, I really need some help! You wouldn't
 25 believe what happened to me today. You see . . . first there
 26 was this "Dead Cat Society" who wanted me to sponsor a
 27 cat, then the people on the phone who tried to send me to
 28 Shangri-La, then those two space cadets at the door who
 29 wanted to sell me some secrets, and then . . . and
 30 then . . . the man under the couch with the sea cows.

31 PASTOR: There was a man under the couch with sea cows?
 32 How did he get them under there?

33 SCOTT: No! No . . . you don't understand. The sea cows
 34 weren't under the couch, just the man. *(PASTOR looks con-*
 35 *fused.)* He just . . . oh, never mind! It's just . . . it's just

- 1 that . . . all those people acted like they wanted to give me
2 something, but all they wanted was to take my money.
- 3 PASTOR: Ah, now you're beginning to make some sense.
4 Sounds like the old "Hook 'em before you cook 'em"
5 routine.
- 6 SCOTT: "Hook 'em before you cook 'em"? What does that
7 mean?
- 8 PASTOR: That just means that first they grab your attention,
9 you know, with the bait, and then they grab your money.
10 It's that simple. I hope you didn't bite!
- 11 SCOTT: Don't worry. They didn't get a cent from me!
- 12 PASTOR: Good! Maybe they won't bother you again. But you
13 can be sure that someone else will take their place.
- 14 SCOTT: Don't worry. I'm not about to give my money to those
15 idiots. I think people like that should be arrested!
- 16 PASTOR: Well, maybe people like *that*. But you know, Scott,
17 it's not *always* wrong to give money to charitable causes.
- 18 SCOTT: Yeah? Like what, for instance?
- 19 PASTOR: Well, it could be many things. For instance, suppose
20 someone really cares about endangered animals, or cancer
21 research, or any one of a thousand causes. There is nothing
22 wrong with giving to causes like that. However, I would
23 add a word of caution here.
- 24 SCOTT: Yeah. Don't give money to girls dressed like planets!
- 25 PASTOR: Eh, that's sort of what I'm saying. See, the Lord
26 tells us in the Bible to be careful stewards of our money.
27 That means: Before I give anyone my money, I want to
28 ask a lot of questions and pray about it first. Also, there
29 are a lot of religious groups out there who try to pass
30 themselves off as Christians, but they are really worship-
31 ing other gods. Sometimes it's not easy to tell. You should
32 ask them for references, phone numbers or addresses so
33 you can check them out. And there's one more thing you
34 need to ask yourself, Scott.
- 35 SCOTT: What's that?

- 1 **PASTOR:** Before you start giving money to any organization,
 2 you should examine your giving to the Lord's work locally.
 3 Are you contributing regularly to your church or mission-
 4 ary outreach? If you're not doing that first, then you need
 5 to rethink your spending habits!
- 6 **SCOTT:** That's a good point! Thanks . . . I'll really give it some
 7 thought.
- 8 **PASTOR:** Glad to help. Are you going to be OK now? You
 9 want me to stick around till your parents come home?
- 10 **SCOTT:** Naw . . . I'm fine. I'm just going to lie down to take a
 11 little nap. Boy, I sure am glad all those people are gone!
 12 If anybody tries to sell me *anything* about a thousand
 13 years from now, it'll be too soon! I've had it with those
 14 door-to-door goofballs!
- 15 **PASTOR:** After the day you've had today, I think I can under-
 16 stand! *(Exiting)* Bye, Scott!
- 17 **SCOTT:** Thanks, Pastor. *(Sighs. Turns to couch and lies down)*
 18 Now, where was I? *(Closes his eyes and begins to snore. Door*
 19 *opens. His younger sister, KRIS, appears, carrying a large box.*
 20 *She struggles with the box and sets it on the table next to SCOTT.*
 21 *He is sound asleep and doesn't hear her.)*
- 22 **KRIS:** *(Holds up a box and speaks very loudly near his face)* Hey
 23 Scott! *(She tries to shake him awake.)*
- 24 **SCOTT:** *(Sits up with a start, half asleep, and thrashes around)*
 25 No, no sea cows! I don't want to buy any sea cows! Get
 26 them off of me!
- 27 **KRIS:** Scott, wake up! You're dreaming. Wake up! Scott!
 28 *(Shakes him)* I've got something important to ask you!
- 29 **SCOTT:** *(Looks around)* Huh? Oh, sis, you're not selling sea
 30 cows?
- 31 **KRIS:** Sea cows? Are you crazy? Of course I'm not selling sea
 32 cows! Where would you get a crazy idea like that?
- 33 **SCOTT:** Never mind. It was a bad dream . . . I think.
 34 Uh . . . what did you want to ask me?
- 35 **KRIS:** *(Holds up three or four cookie boxes)* I said . . . I'm selling

Girl Scout cookies. Wanna buy some? (*SCOTT looks at audience with wide eyes and then falls stiffly onto floor. KRIS looks at SCOTT in confusion, then at the audience. She shrugs.*) **Oh well, that's the way the cookie crumbles!** (*She exits, nonchalantly munching a cookie.*)

Weird Parents . . . and Their Kids!

THEME: Parents and teens often don't think on the same wavelength. Sometimes they even act like they live on different planets.

CAST: MARK, a football player; STEPHEN and CORINE, his two friends; alien PARENTS. (PARENTS' appearance is saved for a surprise ending. Costume suggestion: Two strange masks that cover the whole head. They can dress as two separate "beings" or as a two-headed alien in a large coat. However the aliens dress, they should appear to be "out of this world.")

PROPS: Football and jersey for MARK; bench (or two folding chairs); book bags for STEPHEN and CORINE.

SETTING: A park. A park bench should be placed slightly to Stage Left.

AT RISE: STEPHEN and CORINE are talking, sitting on the park bench.

STEPHEN: *(Looks at watch)* Mark's really late now. Are you sure we were supposed to meet him here? Maybe we should have gone to his house.

CORINE: There's one little problem . . . I have no idea where he lives!

STEPHEN: Me neither. I just hope we don't have to wait much longer. I've got tons of things waiting for me at home.

CORINE: Yeah, me too. Just think, I could be at home now, fighting with my sister!

STEPHEN: What fun. *(MARK jogs in, out of breath.)*

MARK: Hi guys. Whew! I'm out of breath. I just ran all the way from the football field. *(STEPHEN and CORINE stand up.)*

STEPHEN: So the star of the team finally arrived!

CORINE: We were about ready to give up and go home.

MARK: Sorry. It wasn't my idea. The coach kept us at practice late. What can I say?

1 CORINE: Oh, don't worry. You're worth waiting for!

2 STEPHEN: I don't know if I'd go that far . . .

3 MARK: (*Joking*) Did I hear anybody ask you? (*Cups hand over*
4 *ear*) No, I sure didn't! You're hearing things again, Steve!

5 CORINE: All right, you two; insult each other on your own
6 time! We've kept Mark's parents waiting long enough.
7 (*They start to walk together, then they stop when CORINE*
8 *speaks.*) Hey Mark, is your mom going to be mad that we're
9 so late? I mean, she was nice enough to invite us for dinner
10 and all.

11 MARK: Oh, don't worry, Corine! It takes more than that to
12 upset my mom. (*Pauses*) Speaking of parents, though, I
13 should warn you that mine are a little strange.

14 STEPHEN: (*Rolls his eyes*) Oh, tell me all about it! Everybody's
15 parents are strange. If we had a "Strange Parent" contest,
16 mine would win a blue ribbon! *Especially* my mom.

17 MARK: Is that right?

18 STEPHEN: Yep. You want to know just how strange she is?

19 MARK and CORINE: (*Together*) How strange is she?

20 STEPHEN: I guess you could say she has a problem with
21 chocolate. I mean . . . if I walk into the house with a choco-
22 late bar in my pocket, she smells it! Then she'll bug me
23 until I give her half. But get this . . . one time she wanted
24 to lose ten pounds, so she asked us to hide a bag of choco-
25 late-covered pretzels from her. Well, we hid them, just like
26 she asked. You'll never guess what she did then!

27 MARK: Let me guess . . . she ate the pretzels and threw the
28 bathroom scale out the window!

29 STEPHEN: You're close. While we were all asleep, she tore
30 the whole house apart and finally found them in the top
31 of the linen closet. Then she ate the whole bag and said,
32 "Oh, now why did I do that?"

33 CORINE: That's pretty strange, all right! But I've got a better
34 one. Did I tell you about the time I forgot to bring my lunch
35 to school just before Halloween? Well, my dad dressed up

1 as Superman and charged into the classroom, holding my
 2 lunch bag in his fist, and shouted, "Is it a bird? Is it a
 3 plane? No . . . it's your lunch!" Then when he turned
 4 around to leave, he said, "And once again, boys and girls,
 5 Super Dad saves the day!" Then he just sailed on out! My
 6 teacher thought it was very creative, but I almost barfed!

7 STEPHEN: Gee, that doesn't sound so bad. Little kids love
 8 that sort of thing. How old were you?

9 CORINE: Fourteen.

10 STEPHEN and MARK: (*Exchange glances. Together*) Now that's
 11 strange!

12 MARK: Yeah, I know what you mean about parents. Let me
 13 tell you, mine are *so weird*, man . . . they're from another
 14 planet!

15 STEPHEN: Aren't they all? Hey, while we're telling weird par-
 16 ent stories, I think the weirdest thing my dad ever did was
 17 to bring a baby skunk home and put it in the bed next to
 18 my mom while she was sleeping.

19 MARK: That stinks! What did she do?

20 STEPHEN: She woke up and screamed so loud that the neigh-
 21 bors called the police. When the police got there and asked
 22 my dad what was going on, he told them that it was all
 23 just his idea of a joke and the skunk was descended any-
 24 way. Then one of the policemen said to my mom, "There's
 25 only one thing we need to know, lady." (*Pause*) "Which
 26 skunk do you want us to arrest?"

27 CORINE: That's pretty wild. I'll have to think real hard to
 28 top that one! (*Pause*) I've got it! Did I tell you my dad wears
 29 a toupée?

30 MARK: No! Does he really?

31 CORINE: Yep, he sure does.

32 MARK: I'd love to hear a good wig story. I don't suppose you
 33 know any?

34 CORINE: As a matter of fact, I do! Once when my dad took
 35 the offering at church, he bent over to pick up a dollar

1 bill someone dropped. Right then, in front of three
 2 hundred people, his toupée fell off his head and into the
 3 collection plate!

4 MARK: Oh, gosh! Did everybody laugh?

5 CORINE: Yeah, you could say that! Then my dad waited until
 6 everybody calmed down and he said, "Don't get too at-
 7 tached to your money, folks . . . 'cause it's just like that
 8 stuff on my head (*Points down*) . . . hair today and gone
 9 tomorrow!" Well, I thought three hundred people and one
 10 preacher were going to have heart attacks right on the
 11 spot.

12 MARK: What a story! Gee, you guys are making me feel better
 13 already! Got any more?

14 STEPHEN: Hey, we could go on all day! Here's another one.
 15 You know how forgetful my dad is. He's always forgetting
 16 my mom's birthday and their anniversary and everything.
 17 So one time my Aunt Sue, for a joke, bought him boxer
 18 shorts with the days of the week written all over them, to
 19 help him keep his dates straight. So one day at the grocery
 20 store he was writing a check and asked the cashier what
 21 day it was. So guess what my little brother said?

22 MARK: I'm afraid to!

23 STEPHEN: He said, really loud, "Dad, just look at your under-
 24 wear. I think you're wearing your Saturday shorts!"
 25 (*Everyone laughs, then pauses.*)

26 MARK: Parents are strange, all right. Sometimes I just don't
 27 know what to do with them! (*Pause*) But you know, on
 28 second thought . . . I don't know what I'd do without them,
 29 either.

30 CORINE: Yeah, you're right. Who else would put up with teen-
 31 agers who tell their innermost secrets and laugh about it
 32 with all their friends? (*All laugh.*)

33 MARK: Seriously, though, I've done some pretty crazy things
 34 in my life, too, but Mom and Dad are always there, rooting
 35 for me.

1 **CORINE:** Yeah, and I'll always remember how my parents
 2 sat through countless basketball games, week after week,
 3 cheering for me whether my team won or lost.

4 **MARK:** And do you know how I passed algebra last year?
 5 Good old Dad pulled me through. Night after night, hour
 6 after hour, he was there. There were times I'd get so frus-
 7 trated and mad that I was ready to give up on algebra.
 8 But Dad never gave up on me. *(Pause)* Who else would do
 9 that for you?

10 **STEPHEN:** You're right. There's nobody like them! So . . . I'm
 11 glad the Lord gave us parents, no matter how weird they
 12 act sometimes.

13 **CORINE:** Me, too. So maybe we should let them know we
 14 appreciate them a little more often. *(STEPHEN and MARK*
 15 *nod in agreement.)*

16 **MARK:** *(Walking a few more steps with his friends)* Well, here we
 17 are. *(Sweeping gesture with his arm)* Home at last!

18 **CORINE:** So you see, Mark, you don't have anything to worry
 19 about. No matter how different you think your parents
 20 are, they couldn't *possibly* be any nicer . . . or any weird-
 21 er . . . than ours!

22 **MARK:** *(Cautiously)* Oh, I don't know . . . *(PARENTS come to*
 23 *door, dressed as aliens. STEPHEN and CORINE take one stun-*
 24 *ned look.)*

25 **PARENTS:** *(Very animated)* Hi, kids! *(STEPHEN and CORINE*
 26 *pass out on floor.)*

27 **MARK:** *(Deadpans to audience)* I said they were from another
 28 planet!
 29
 30
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 35

Where's Your Guarantee?

THEME: Sharing about Christ. TOADY feels compelled to witness to a school jock whom he has been tutoring in chemistry for several weeks.

CAST: TOADY, MAT and CHRISTY. COACH, four other BASKETBALL PLAYERS, and two or three CHEERLEADERS make brief appearances.

PROPS: A card table with a couple of test tubes and beakers placed on top; two basketballs; similar outfits for cheerleaders (shorts or skirts and sweaters); pompoms; pocket Bible for Toady; stool.

SETTING: School lab, after hours.

AT RISE: TOADY is in the lab room, standing in front of the card table, which holds test tubes and beakers filled with colored water. Impatiently glancing at his watch, TOADY paces the floor aimlessly. MAT enters, humming a little tune and dribbling the ball.

TOADY: Finally! Mat, I didn't think you were coming! You know that big chemistry final is coming up next week and . . .

MAT: *(Stops dribbling. Looks up, like he is momentarily lost in thought)* Chemistry? Oh yeah. *(Small laugh)* I knew I came down here for some reason! Look, pal, I got the Big Game tomorrow with Union High and, well, I gotta skip the tutoring bit today.

TOADY: *(Astonished)* Skip tutoring? Are you kidding? What . . . do you want to flunk chemistry?

MAT: Look, pal. What's more important . . . basketball, cheering fans, and a winning team . . . or some little, old, measly chemistry final?

TOADY: *(Sarcastic)* Well, when you put it like that!

MAT: *(Pats his shoulder)* I knew you'd see it my way! *(Starts to exit)* Uh, see ya next week. Gotta run!

TOADY: Mat! How do you think you stayed on the team any-

- 1 way, huh? By flunking chemistry?
- 2 **MAT:** Hey, re-lax Toad! This is the last game of the year. How
 3 can they kick me off the team for a chemistry final I'm
 4 gonna flunk next week? (*Points to his head, winks*) I got it
 5 all figured out!
- 6 **TOADY:** (*Sarcastic again*) I am so relieved.
- 7 **MAT:** Great! Catch you later! (*Quickly exits, dribbling the ball*
 8 *on the way out*)
- 9 **TOADY:** Oh, uh . . . Mat! Mat! (*Sees that he has exited. To himself,*
 10 *sounding relieved*) Well, I guess this isn't the day, Lord. You
 11 know I tried! (*MAT peers around door.*)
- 12 **MAT:** Yeah? You bellowed?
- 13 **TOADY:** (*Surprised*) Oh, nothing! I just wanted to talk about
 14 . . . something kinda important. Look, we'll talk later, after
 15 the game, maybe! You go on, now. (*Waves him off. MAT*
 16 *remains put.*)
- 17 **MAT:** Hey, if my old pal needs to talk, then he can talk. You
 18 gave up hours of your time to tutor me in chemistry, and
 19 I can give you all of . . . (*Looks at his watch*) fifteen minutes.
 20 (*MAT faces him.*) Okay, shoot! (*Shoots basketball at an imagi-*
 21 *nary net. MAT catches it as it bounces.Laughs at himself*) Hey,
 22 pretty good joke, huh?
- 23 **TOADY:** (*Ill at ease*) Well . . . it's just . . . I just wanted to tell
 24 you about . . . well, it's kind of personal and . . .
- 25 **MAT:** (*Puts his hand on TOADY's shoulder, then sits on stool*) Hey,
 26 buddy, relax! You can tell me anything. What is it, women?
 27 Huh? Hey, I'm an expert. Just ask old Mat and . . .
- 28 **TOADY:** No, it's not women. I don't even have a girlfriend, Mat.
- 29 **MAT:** Gee, it's worse than I thought! (*Confidentially*) Listen, let
 30 me fix you up with a blind date. I know a real cute
 31 girl . . . my Uncle Harold's ex-wife's boss's niece. (*MAT*
 32 *looks confused.*) . . . Or something like that!
- 33 **TOADY:** No, Mat. That's not what I'm trying to say!
- 34 **MAT:** What? Wait . . . wait! You want to be a jock, like me.
 35 Well why didn't you say so, buddy? Look, we'll put you

- 1 on the weights, work out everyday, and in no time you'll
2 sprout some wings . . . (*Flexes his muscles*) just like me.
- 3 **TOADY:** No! No. I don't want to look like you. (*Notices MAT's*
4 *hurt expression*) I don't mean it like that. You look fine,
5 great! Great muscles! Good, (*Pats his muscle*) good muscles.
6 But . . . that's not what I'm trying to say either. If you
7 would just let me finish . . .
- 8 **MAT:** Sure, buddy! (*Pause. They both wait. TOADY searches for*
9 *words. MAT looks at his watch.*) Well, this has been an awe-
10 some conversation, pal, and now I guess I'll just . . . (*Gets*
11 *down from stool*)
- 12 **TOADY:** (*Grabs MAT's arm*) Mat, please! Please, just a minute.
13 I have to say this. I'm not talking about women or muscles
14 or schoolwork or anything else in this world. (*MAT looks*
15 *at him blankly. To himself*) I'm not very good at this. (*Takes*
16 *a deep breath. Blurting out, to MAT*) I'm talking about your
17 life. I'm talking about your relationship to . . .
- 18 **MAT:** (*Snaps his fingers*) I knew it. I knew it! You're into that
19 kinky head stuff! You know . . . mind over matter or some-
20 thing. Hey, you heard of that out-of-body thing? I saw this
21 real neat TV special on levitation . . . you know . . . where
22 your spirit jumps out of your body and swims around up
23 on the ceiling and you don't even get dizzy or nothin'.
- 24 **TOADY:** Mat, I'm not talking about any of that weird stuff.
25 I'm talking about your soul that God gave you and . . .
26 (*CHRISTY enters lab. Runs up and hugs MAT*)
- 27 **MAT:** Hey, Christy! How's my best girl?
- 28 **CHRISTY:** Hi, Mat. Hi, Toady. It's really cool that you're help-
29 ing Mat pass chemistry. He's been telling me what a won-
30 derful help—
- 31 **MAT:** (*Interrupting*) Christy, you've gotta stay for a minute.
32 The Toad was just about ready to tell me something (*Stated*
33 *mysteriously*) "pretty spooky." (*Turns to TOADY*) You don't
34 mind, do you, Toad? Christy's into weird things, too.
- 35 **CHRISTY:** (*Laughing*) Guess that's why I love you so much, Mat!

- 1 **MAT:** Ha! Ha! The girl's a real comedienne.
- 2 **TOADY:** *(Sighs. To himself)* I rehearsed all those nights at home
3 for this?
- 4 **CHRISTY:** *(To MAT)* Aren't you late for practice?
- 5 **MAT:** Yeah, but I've gotta hear what the Toad has to say. This
6 is just getting good.
- 7 **CHRISTY:** *(Shrugs. To MAT)* OK. Did Mat ever tell you about
8 my crystal collection?
- 9 **TOADY:** *(Groaning)* No, no, not crystals! That's "New Age"
10 stuff. Do you know what you're getting into?
- 11 **CHRISTY:** Yeah, about \$9.99 a month. I bought the whole set.
12 *(Another two people stop by the room: the COACH and one other*
13 *player, DAVE.)*
- 14 **COACH:** Mat, there you are! I've been looking all over the
15 place for you. What's a guy like you doing in a place like
16 this at a time like this? Don't you know what's happening
17 tomorrow?
- 18 **MAT:** Hey, coach! Look, I know how important that game is.
19 *(Puts his hand on COACH's shoulder)* Coach, could you give
20 me five more minutes for the Toad here? I mean, after all
21 those times he helped me with chemistry to keep me on
22 the team . . . if you catch my drift.
- 23 **COACH:** *(Looks at TOAD apologetically)* Oh, sorry. Five for the
24 chemistry tutor? Sure! Gee, if you don't mind, I'll just wait
25 right here. *(To TOADY)* I want to make sure this big lug
26 doesn't waltz off with his girlfriend. We've gotta make
27 tracks!
- 28 **TOADY:** *(Looks up to heaven)* Father, give me patience!
- 29 **DAVE:** So unload, Toad.
- 30 **CHRISTY:** *(To COACH)* Toady was just about to tell us some-
31 thing real important—about UFOs, I think.
- 32 **MAT:** Yeah? Did you see one of those? My uncle swore he saw
33 a cigar-shaped spaceship last year. Landed right in the
34 middle of his pig pen. Boy, you shoulda heard those pigs!
35 They screamed . . . *(High-pitched scream)* just like that! I

- 1 mean . . . did you ever hear a pig scream?
- 2 **COACH:** That's really weird! Hey, my horoscope says that
3 this month we'll have a lot of supernatural activity . . . *(Now*
4 *three other players drift in: GREG, TED and LARRY.)*
- 5 **GREG:** What? We having practice in here or something?
6 *(Starts to dribble his ball around the room, while LARRY blocks)*
- 7 **TED:** Now that's what I call weird!
- 8 **CHRISTY:** Hey, Larry, what's your sign?
- 9 **LARRY:** Sagittarius. Why? *(Keeps blocking. Answers over his*
10 *shoulder)*
- 11 **MAT:** No! I had you pegged for a Taurus!
- 12 **COACH:** That's me; I'm Taurus! *(Two or three CHEERLEADERS*
13 *enter, waving pompoms. They should enter cheering. Suggestion:*
14 *Have them recite a cheer from your community school team.)*
- 15 **DAVE:** *(Listens to them for a moment, then turns back to MAT. His*
16 *voice should rise above CHEERLEADERS' voices.)* So I wanna
17 know what happened to those pigs who were picked up
18 by flying saucers.
- 19 **GREG:** *(Laughs)* Hey, intergalactic pigs. That's rich, man!
- 20 **MAT:** No, you've got it all wrong! They weren't picked up,
21 they were . . .
- 22 **TOADY:** *(Tries to shout over the CHEERLEADERS and the discus-*
23 *sion of intergalactic pigs to no avail.)* Hey, guys! Hey . . . would
24 somebody listen to me? *(CHEERLEADERS and PLAYERS*
25 *continue. TOADY stands up on a stool, cups his hands around*
26 *his mouth, and yells at the top of his lungs)* Hold it! Hold it!
27 *(Even CHEERLEADERS stop. Dead silence. EVERYONE looks*
28 *at him questioningly. He comes down from the stool.)* For the
29 past fifteen minutes I've been trying to say something, and
30 I can't get a word in edgewise!
- 31 **MAT:** Gee, we're sorry, Toady. *(Pause)* I thought we were all
32 talking about that supernatural stuff.
- 33 **TOADY:** No! You weren't . . . I was. I mean I wasn't. I
34 mean . . . we're not talking about the same thing at all!
- 35 **DAVE:** You want to run that by me again?

- 1 **TOADY:** Mat, for the past two weeks I've really wanted to
 2 talk to you about Jesus, but I didn't know how to say it.
 3 So I finally decided that the "right time" might never come,
 4 and this is our last tutoring session. So . . . (*Looks around*
 5 *at all the people*) I sure hadn't planned to make this a public
 6 announcement . . . but the Lord usually has his own ideas.
- 7 **MAT:** Jesus, huh? That's what this is all about? (*Awkward*
 8 *pause*)
- 9 **COACH:** I . . . think I'm late for something. Uh . . . practice!
 10 That's it . . . basketball practice. Can't practice without the
 11 old coach, now, can we? (*Nervous laugh*) Gotta run!
- 12 **MAT:** I'll catch up with you in a few minutes, coach.
- 13 **COACH:** Yeah, uh, see you in a minute . . . Mat. (*Exits, looking*
 14 *a little embarrassed*)
- 15 **DAVE:** Yeah, me too! I, uh . . . I've got to practice, too. Big
 16 game tomorrow . . . real, uh, *big* game . . . real big game.
 17 (*Backs out of room, looking embarrassed. When at door, he darts*
 18 *out quickly. All others file out, mumbling feeble excuses, until*
 19 *only TOADY, MAT and CHRISTY are left. MAT and CHRISTY*
 20 *exchange glances.*)
- 21 **CHRISTY:** We'll stay, Toady.
- 22 **TOADY:** Gee, I didn't mean to alienate everybody.
- 23 **MAT:** Oh, don't worry about them! We want to hear you,
 24 Toady. If this is that important to you, then we want to
 25 hear it.
- 26 **TOADY:** It's simple, really. I wanted to know if you've ever
 27 thought of Jesus in a personal way. Do you think of him
 28 as someone you can trust, or just the "big guy upstairs"
 29 with a long list of "do's and don'ts"? That's all.
- 30 **MAT:** Gee, I hadn't thought about it much, to be honest. I
 31 mean, I've got a long life ahead of me so . . . I don't worry
 32 too much about things like that.
- 33 **TOADY:** Oh? So how long are you gonna live, Mat?
- 34 **MAT:** I dunno. Seventy, eighty maybe. How am I supposed
 35 to know that?



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