

THE PRODIGAL DAUGHTER PLUS FIVE

by Maria Feely



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The Prodigal Daughter Plus Five

A sketch collection for
all-women casts

by Maria Feely

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JOANIE AND THE WHALE

Premise: Joanie is a modern-day Jonah. She is worthy to be called a prophet, but she runs from the job. An angel follows her as she tries to run away via flight attendant school. After a near-drowning and an encounter with a whale, Joanie goes to the town and does as God has asked. Then, when the town is saved, she is angry about it. The angel puts her in her place and then charges her and the audience to be of service to the world.

Cast/Costumes: **JOANIE** — A modern woman.

ANGEL — God's messenger with some attitude. She may wear a simple angel costume (optional).

INSTRUCTOR — A goofy teacher at flight attendant school.

Props: Flashlight, newspaper, and branch of greenery.

Set: Two chairs (to make plane and lifeboat).

Running Time: Ten minutes.

Note: Ninevah is the name of the town where Jonah is sent, but in this script, Ninevah should be changed to your own locale to make the performance more personal.

(JOANIE is asleep on the stairs. ANGEL enters and gently shakes JOANIE.)

ANGEL: Joanie, wake up. God wants to talk to you.

JOANIE: Oh, Mom. Can't you let me sleep?

ANGEL: Joanie, I said wake up!

JOANIE: Hey! Get your hands off me ... whoa! You are bright. An angel! Oh, no! Did I die or something?

ANGEL: No, Joanie. God has a message for you. I'll give you a chance to wake up, then we'll talk. *(Spot off. ANGEL moves to higher position.)*

JOANIE: We're on *Candid Camera*, right? This is a joke. Hey, come back! Don't leave me. Don't you think I need a minister with me if I'm going to talk to God? *(She paces*

INTRODUCTION

The unifying factor in *The Prodigal Daughter Plus Five* is its choice roles for women. Although each sketch has roles that could be filled by men, the sketches were written to be performed by all-women casts. It is often difficult to find enough roles for women when dealing with biblical plays. Conversely, it has been my experience that more church women than men wish to be involved with drama. That is why these sketches were developed.

Cast sizes range from two to six. Running times range from six to ten minutes. Most require only tables and chairs for the set. Props are minimal and are easily found in your church or at home.

May these fresh takes on traditional biblical truths enhance your worship.

- 1 *back and forth.*) OK, calm down. It was a dream. I'm losing
2 my mind ...
- 3 ANGEL: Joanie, I'm up here! God has something to say to you.
- 4 JOANIE: *(Runs up the stairs.)* What'd I do? What'd I do?
- 5 ANGEL: You haven't done anything, Joanie. God has
6 something for you to do. Arise, go to _____, *(Insert*
7 *your town's name)* and tell them that their wickedness must
8 end.
- 9 JOANIE: Look, no offense ... but seeing as you work for God,
10 you ought to know I can't do that. Those people are drug
11 addicts and alcoholics and adulterers and murderers. You
12 know that no decent Christian would go to _____.
13 *(Insert your town's name.)*
- 14 ANGEL: Are you saying that you are too good for God?
- 15 JOANIE: No! No! I'm just not feeling physically fit.
- 16 ANGEL: You teach aerobics, walk, bike, play soccer ...
- 17 JOANIE: You sure know a lot about me. So ... I guess you
18 know that I'm going on a little trip. Check you later! Don't
19 worry, I'll write. *(Exits.)*
- 20 ANGEL: Don't worry. I'll be following your every move ...
21 *(INSTRUCTOR enters. JOANIE and ANGEL take their places*
22 *on either side of her.)*
- 23 INSTRUCTOR: Welcome back to basic training for flight
24 attendants. Let's review the basic safety procedures. As I
25 read the speech, please show me your best demonstration
26 method. Are we ready? *(As she talks, all three do the*
27 *standard arm motions and add more and more until they are*
28 *doing something active for every word they can.)* Exits are
29 located in the rear, middle and front of the plane. All
30 luggage must fit firmly and securely above your head to
31 avoid accidents while in the air. Please make sure your
32 tray table is in an upright and locked position. As you can
33 see, the pilot has turned on the no-smoking sign. Smoking
34 is not permitted on an airplane. Keep your seatbelt
35 fastened at all times in case of turbulence. Should oxygen

1 be required, grasp the mask firmly and fit it over your
 2 face first. Then help administer it to a small child. Should
 3 you have motion sickness, simply remove the paper bag
 4 from the seat in front of you and use it. Your flight
 5 attendants are here to serve you, so please let us know if
 6 we can make you more comfortable. (*ANGEL exits. To*
 7 *JOANIE and unseen classmates*) You all did great! Now we
 8 come to the important part of the final flight attendant
 9 exam: the test flight. This is where we simulate an in-flight
 10 problem, and you must deal with it without panicking.
 11 (*INSTRUCTOR and JOANIE sit in chairs as if on plane.*)

12 ANGEL: (*From Off-stage*) This is your copilot speaking. We
 13 have now reached an altitude of thirty thousand feet. This
 14 is the part of the course where we usually have a quiz on
 15 in-air safety, but I regret to tell you that — (*Pause, then*
 16 *alarmed*) I think the plane is about to crash land into the
 17 ocean! Hold on to your seats! (*INSTRUCTOR and JOANIE*
 18 *shake in their chairs and then roll out and down the stairs. They*
 19 *then “swim” back up to the chairs and climb in, careful to turn*
 20 *them facing each other.*)

21 INSTRUCTOR: Well, you all did very well! I don't know what
 22 happened to the plane, but thank goodness we all got off
 23 safely.

24 JOANIE: The raft is taking on water.

25 INSTRUCTOR: Yes, there are too many of us for the raft. Don't
 26 tell the others.

27 JOANIE: I think they heard you. (*ANGEL enters and stands by*
 28 *JOANIE.*)

29 INSTRUCTOR: They'll find us before nightfall.

30 JOANIE: The sun is going down. This is just great ...

31 ANGEL: Hello, Joanie!

32 JOANIE: What? Not you again!

33 INSTRUCTOR: I think we've been at sea too long. I'm seeing
 34 things.

35 JOANIE: You are? You did? She's an angel, right?

- 1 INSTRUCTOR: I thought I spotted land, but I didn't. You are
 2 the crazy one. Angels. Ha, ha. Tell them to fly us out of
 3 here.
- 4 JOANIE: Fly us out of here?
- 5 ANGEL: Ha, ha. Joanie, you have to go to _____. (*Insert*
 6 *your town's name.*)
- 7 JOANIE: Why me? Why can't it be someone else?
- 8 ANGEL: Because God wants you to go. Don't you fear God?
- 9 JOANIE: Yes. In fact, I'm downright scared right now.
- 10 INSTRUCTOR: Do you always talk to yourself?
- 11 ANGEL: Then don't run. Go to _____. (*Insert your town's*
 12 *name.*) If you who fear him do not teach for him, who will?
- 13 JOANIE: Good point, but I still think I'm better off here ...
- 14 INSTRUCTOR: What's rocking the boat? Oh, my gosh! Is that
 15 a whale or a shark?
- 16 ANGEL: Some say it's just a big fish.
- 17 JOANIE: Will it go away if I jump overboard?
- 18 INSTRUCTOR: Don't be ridiculous.
- 19 ANGEL: You can't keep running from God.
- 20 JOANIE: Well, here goes nothing. (*Holds nose and rolls off chair*
 21 *and down the stairs.*)
- 22 INSTRUCTOR: Come back here! That's not in the manual! Did
 23 you see that? That girl is crazy!
- 24 ANGEL: God, must I go down into the sea too? OK, but I'll get
 25 my wings wet.
- 26 INSTRUCTOR: Wait! I see a ship! It's spotted us. (*"Rows" chair*
 27 *Off-stage. JOANIE wanders around the stage with a flashlight.*
 28 *ANGEL moves extra chairs off.*)
- 29 JOANIE: Whoa! I must be in hades, because this place smells
 30 like rotten fish.
- 31 ANGEL: I wonder which of these will steer this crazy thing.
 32 (*She pretends to look through the synapses in the whale's brain.*)
- 33 JOANIE: Everything looks so peculiar down here.
- 34 ANGEL: I think I've got it. (*Pantomimes pulling something.*) And
 35 we're off!

- 1 **JOANIE:** Whoa! This thing is moving! *(Falls to the ground.)* All
 2 right! All right! I get the message. I need to pray. *(Prays.)*
 3 Oh, God. I see now. I'll go where you want me to go. The
 4 pride I had in myself is gone. How can I have pride
 5 when I exist in the belly of a whale? *(Stands.)* Deliver me
 6 to do your will.
- 7 **ANGEL:** Well, it's about time. *(Plucks air again.)* Let's head for
 8 home, big boy. And next time, God, how about an easier,
 9 drier, less gooey assignment?
- 10 **JOANIE:** *(As if thrown out of the whale's mouth)* Whoa! It's good
 11 to be on land again. OK, which way is _____? *(Insert*
 12 *your town's name.) (ANGEL points Off-stage. JOANIE exits.)*
- 13 **INSTRUCTOR:** *(Pops up with newspaper.)* Look at this headline:
 14 "Girl Preaches in Sin City." *(Reading)* "God threatens to
 15 destroy _____ *(Insert your town's name)* if people
 16 don't repent." Here's her picture — that's the girl who
 17 jumped off my life raft! Preaching to those sinful people
 18 of _____ *(Insert your town's name)* — she's
 19 crazier than I thought! It says they have all turned from
 20 their wicked ways and are wearing sackcloth and ashes.
 21 I hope they don't ride on my airplane.
- 22 **ANGEL:** God, I think you were right. I mean, of course you
 23 are always right. It's just that I couldn't understand why
 24 you picked Joanie. Sure she's a good person, but what
 25 was so great about her? Yes, yes, I hear you. Even the
 26 least among those humans can do great things.
- 27 **JOANIE:** Sackcloth and ashes? Yeah, sure, good idea. See you
 28 later.
- 29 **ANGEL:** You ran away, but in the end you came through.
 30 Through your work God saved so many lost souls.
- 31 **JOANIE:** I can't believe I went to all that trouble for nothing.
- 32 **ANGEL:** What?
- 33 **JOANIE:** I'm going to sit here and wait for God to destroy
 34 _____, *(Insert your town's name)* and if he
 35 doesn't, I'll — I'll —

- 1 **ANGEL:** What? Join the Army? News flash, girlfriend. God
 2 has already decided that he will spare _____.
 3 *(Insert your town's name.)* You should be happy that no
 4 one will die. You helped accomplish a miracle!
- 5 **JOANIE:** He said they would all die.
- 6 **ANGEL:** And they would have died, but you helped save
 7 them from their wickedness. You should be pleased —
 8 not angry. Don't rejoice in the wrong, rejoice in the right!
- 9 **JOANIE:** Go away.
- 10 **ANGEL:** Gladly! I mean, with gladsome tidings to God on
 11 high. Good-bye. *(ANGEL steps back a bit and gets branch.)*
- 12 **JOANIE:** *(Sits at top of stairs.)* Whoa! It is hot out here. What's
 13 that? *(The ANGEL raises branch as if making a plant grow*
 14 *up beside her.)* I don't believe in Jack and the Beanstalk,
 15 but I've never seen a plant grow that fast. Thanks, God!
 16 Now I have shade. This is wonderful! *(Pause)* Why do I
 17 get the feeling that — *(ANGEL lowers branch)* oh, now
 18 you're killing my shade. God, why are you doing that?
- 19 **ANGEL:** Hello again. News flash from God.
- 20 **JOANIE:** Not you again!
- 21 **ANGEL:** Joanie, you are a selfish woman! You care more
 22 about a shade bush than you do the hundreds *(Or*
 23 *thousands or hundreds of thousands)* of people of
 24 _____. *(Insert town's name.)*
- 25 **JOANIE:** Well, God said they would suffer. Who am I to
 26 dispute his word?
- 27 **ANGEL:** God's word?
- 28 **JOANIE:** I'm just saying that God said —
- 29 **ANGEL:** Well, listen up. You didn't plant or water this bush.
 30 Does that mean it shouldn't grow? Does that mean you
 31 don't deserve its shade? Should God not pity the people
 32 of _____, *(Insert your town's name)* where
 33 hundreds *(Or thousands)* of people live who don't know
 34 their left from their right? Do you get it?
- 35 **JOANIE:** I get it. I am a self-satisfied, selfish, proud woman,

1 and I don't know my left from my right.

2 **ANGEL:** Don't take it too hard, Joanie. There are a lot of
3 people who are too proud of themselves to realize that
4 God wants them to be of service to the world. Now, go
5 out into the world. The world is full of _____
6 (*Town name plural*) and Ninevahs, Joanie. Just look
7 around you.

8 **JOANIE:** Oh, no! Do I need to leave right now?

9 **ANGEL:** What do you think? (*They exit.*)

10

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13

MARTA SNEWART

14

15 *Premise:* With tongue firmly planted in cheek, Marta Snewart
16 demonstrates how to get rid of “pesky prophets.” She shows
17 her guest, the Queen, how to turn everyday objects into a
18 defense against those who speak for God. This sketch reminds
19 its audience of the sacrifices that the prophets made on behalf
20 of God.

21 *Cast/Costumes:* **MARTA** — Biblical garb or modern, preppy.

22 **QUEEN** — Biblical garb with crown or modern and dressy
23 with crown.

24 **ASSISTANT** — Biblical garb or modern model attire.

25 (**VINEYARD WORKERS** — Group of men with shovels,
26 optional.)

27 *Props:* Netting: mesh potato sack, wildflowers: sprig of fake flowers,
28 bracelet: woven brown bracelet, fireproof suit: rain poncho
29 with matching pants, lighter, mouth clamp: broken bits of
30 pottery and round metal ring, homemade handcuffs: brown
31 twine, oracle: small branch and matches.

32 *Set:* A table to hold props. A higher, counter-like table is helpful to
33 the actresses.

34 *Running Time:* Five to seven minutes.

35 (*MARTA and QUEEN stand behind table with props.*)

- 1 *ASSISTANT is Off-stage.)*
- 2 MARTA: Hi, I'm Marta Snewart. Welcome. Today my guest is
- 3 the Queen herself.
- 4 QUEEN: Thank you for inviting me to your beautiful home.
- 5 MARTA: I understand you have some of those pesky
- 6 prophets on your hands.
- 7 QUEEN: Prophets of God are such pushy people. I don't
- 8 know why they can't just give up their God. Most people
- 9 know that they should worship whatever god is popular.
- 10 Instead, those prophets stir up trouble. How does one
- 11 protect oneself from these people? (*ASSISTANT enters.*)
- 12 MARTA: The first thing you need is some nice netting. I got
- 13 this from an old potato sack. Just tie it around your
- 14 head like so. (*ASSISTANT models netting.*) This will
- 15 protect you against most plagues, such as locusts, wasps,
- 16 mosquitos, whatever.
- 17 QUEEN: I'll bet those Egyptians wished they had some
- 18 protection when Moses visited all of those plagues on
- 19 them.
- 20 MARTA: And to make it stylish, just add a sprig of
- 21 wildflowers. (*MARTA puts a sprig of flowers in the*
- 22 *ASSISTANT's netting.*) There, now doesn't that look
- 23 lovely?
- 24 QUEEN: Yes ...
- 25 MARTA: Now, if that prophet is a strong man like Samson,
- 26 you just need to slip in and cut off his hair.
- 27 QUEEN: Like Delilah did ...
- 28 MARTA: Then weave that hair into an attractive bracelet.
- 29 (*Shows it.*)
- 30 QUEEN: Oh, that's lovely. But what do you do with Elijah?
- 31 Remember that king and his fifty men who were
- 32 consumed with fire just because they worshiped
- 33 Beelzebub?
- 34 MARTA: Then you need fifty-one of these beautiful fireproof
- 35 suits. (*ASSISTANT models "suit."*) I made this one from

1 some old drapes I had in my living room. These fireproof
2 garments are quite nifty. I tested one myself. (*Flicks*
3 *lighter. ASSISTANT runs away.*) Would you like to try it
4 out? (*Flicks lighter.*)

5 **QUEEN:** No, thank you. I'm allergic to heat.

6 **MARTA:** Now, do you remember how we finally got rid of
7 Elijah?

8 **QUEEN:** He was taken up into heaven by God.

9 **MARTA:** Exactly. And why wait for God to take that pesky
10 prophet into heaven when you can catapult him into the
11 heavens yourself? Using only a few trees and things I
12 found in my own yard, I built a catapult and used my
13 neighbor as a test. (*ASSISTANT "flies across the stage."*) It
14 really works. And with my neighbor long gone, I can
15 expand my vineyard.

16 **QUEEN:** Wonderful. However, old methods do work best.
17 Can't I just use torture?

18 **MARTA:** Good idea. I made these instruments of terror using
19 things I found around the house. (*Indicates table of props.*)
20 You can make them too. I tested them on another
21 neighbor, and now I have even *more* room for my
22 vineyard.

23 **QUEEN:** Marta's Vineyard is getting quite large. But what do
24 you do if you have a prophet like Jeremiah? He talks
25 endlessly of doom and despair. He's always telling us to
26 turn from our wicked ways.

27 **MARTA:** Quit sinning. Be a better person. That kind of
28 rhetoric is so annoying. (*Holds up clamp.*) You can try this
29 special mouth clamp that I made from a few bits of
30 broken pottery and an old lantern.

31 **QUEEN:** Magnificent. But what if he is also a prolific writer
32 like Jeremiah?

33 **MARTA:** (*Holds up handcuffs.*) Try these homemade handcuffs
34 I made out of common household items.

35 **QUEEN:** (*Taking handcuffs*) I'll just take these home for later.

1 **MARTA:** Now, this last one I highly recommend. First, gather
 2 a few of the best-looking, strongest men you can find. I
 3 found mine in my vineyard. Give them shovels and have
 4 them dig a deep hole.

5 **QUEEN:** I think I know where you're going with this.

6 **MARTA:** Then fill the hole with lions. Presto! You have a
 7 lion's den. Ready for Daniel or any other prophet that
 8 may be ruining your good time.

9 **QUEEN:** Thanks for these handy tips.

10 **MARTA:** You're quite welcome. Join us next time, when I will
 11 show you how to make your own oracle using only a
 12 dying bush and a box of matches. And remember: It's a
 13 good thing.

14 **QUEEN:** Yes. It's a good thing you aren't a prophet. (*QUEEN*
 15 *and MARTA exit.*)

16

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19

THE GOD SQUAD

20

21 *Premise:* This mock television show laughs at how overzealous
 22 Christians can be cheerleaders for God while ignoring the real
 23 needs in other people's lives.

24 *Cast/Costumes:* **ANNOUNCER** — Typical TV announcer in
 25 professional clothes.

26 **CHEERLEADERS** — An overzealous group of Christians
 27 (three or more). They wear clothes indicating uniformity; no
 28 uniform needed.

29 **JESSICA** — A sad person; wears street clothes.

30 *Props:* Pom-poms for cheerleaders — optional.

31 *Set:* No set pieces needed.

32 *Running Time:* Six minutes.

33 **ANNOUNCER:** The Sort-of-a-Christian Broadcast brings you
 34 The God Squad. If you like platitudes better than the
 35 Beattitudes, then these dudettes have the right attitudes.

- 1 So, I ask you, what's wrong with this picture?
 2 (*CHEERLEADERS 1, 2, and 3 enter, laughing and talking.*
 3 *JESSICA enters and walks by, dejected.*)
 4 **CHEERLEADER 1:** Hey, Jessica. What's wrong?
 5 **JESSICA:** My grandfather died. My parents are getting a
 6 divorce. My best friend keeps offering me drugs, and I'm
 7 tempted to take them. My little sister got hurt and is in
 8 the hospital. And —
 9 **CHEERLEADER 2:** Just remember, God loves you.
 10 **JESSICA:** I'm not feeling very loved right now.
 11 **CHEERLEADER 3:** You know what you need? You need
 12 some cheering up! Right, girls?
 13 **CHEERLEADERS 1, 2, and 3:** (*Together, with cheerleader-related*
 14 *motions.*)
 15 God is cool. He is the most.
 16 He gave us his Son and the Holy Ghost!
 17 God Squad!
 18 **CHEERLEADER 1:** This is your lucky day, because the God
 19 Squad is here.
 20 **CHEERLEADER 2:** That's right. God loves you in spite of
 21 your problems.
 22 **CHEERLEADER 3:** You need to learn to be cheerful, even
 23 when the world gets you down.
 24 **JESSICA:** I don't think this is going to work.
 25 **CHEERLEADERS 1, 2, and 3:** (*Together, with motions*)
 26 When you feel sad,
 27 When you feel blue,
 28 Just remember
 29 God loves you!
 30 God Squad!
 31 **JESSICA:** Why are you doing this to me?
 32 **CHEERLEADERS 1, 2, and 3:** (*Together, with motions*)
 33 Just be cheerful,
 34 Just be happy.
 35 Think of God

- 1 As your pappy.
2 God Squad!
- 3 **JESSICA:** I've got a lot on my mind. Why are you trivializing
4 it?
- 5 **CHEERLEADER 1:** You need to learn how to be cheerful.
6 Then you can lead cheers like us.
- 7 **CHEERLEADER 2:** You need some spirit!
- 8 **CHEERLEADER 3:** Yeah, the Holy Spirit.
- 9 **CHEERLEADERS 1, 2, and 3:** *(Together, with motions)* God
10 Squad! Roll Call! *(Each girl steps forward and gives a cheer.)*
- 11 **CHEERLEADER 1:** My name is _____.
12 I am so good.
13 I do it all
14 The way I should! *(Steps back.)*
- 15 **CHEERLEADER 2:** My name is _____.
16 God is cool.
17 I go to church
18 And live the Golden Rule! *(Steps back.)*
- 19 **CHEERLEADER 3:** My name is _____.
20 I'm here to say
21 I read my Bible
22 And fast and pray.
- 23 **CHEERLEADERS 1, 2, and 3:** *(Together)* God Squad!
- 24 **JESSICA:** Why don't you get it? I don't need a pep talk, I
25 need a friend!
- 26 **CHEERLEADERS 1, 2, and 3:** *(Together, with motions)*
27 God is our friend,
28 Right to the end.
29 You may break
30 But he won't bend.
31 God Squad!
- 32 **JESSICA:** I'm leaving now. I just can't take this.
- 33 **CHEERLEADER 1:** If you were really a Christian, you
34 wouldn't be depressed.
- 35 **CHEERLEADER 2:** You'd be cheerful all the time!

1 **CHEERLEADER 3:** You need to get over yourself and get
2 right with God.

3 **JESSICA:** I thought that Christians are God's helpers on
4 earth.

5 **CHEERLEADER 1:** Well, we're trying to help you if you'd just
6 listen.

7 **CHEERLEADER 2:** I'll bet she never even goes to church.

8 **CHEERLEADER 3:** You know what she needs, girls. She
9 needs another cheer.

10 **CHEERLEADERS 1, 2, and 3:** *(Together, with motions)*

11 We are the God Squad.

12 We are so nice.

13 We'll go to heaven

14 And get in twice!

15 God Squad!

16 **JESSICA:** That's it! I'm gone. *(Starts to exit.)*

17 **CHEERLEADERS 1, 2, and 3:** *(Together, with motions)*

18 You can run, but you can't hide.

19 God can see you deep inside.

20 God Squad! God Squad! God Squad! *(CHEERLEADERS*

21 *follow JESSICA out, cheering and clapping all the way.)*

22 **ANNOUNCER:** What's wrong with this picture? The answer:

23 Hurting people don't need a cheerleader, they need

24 someone to reach out and show them God's love. Today

25 or tomorrow you may run into a friend with problems.

26 How will you react? What will you say? Maybe you

27 could start with, "I'm here for you and ready to listen."

28

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31

THE PRODIGAL DAUGHTER

32

33 *Premise:* This is a modern, humorous retelling of the parable of the

34 Prodigal Son. Gender matters not, for we can all relate to the

35 one who went astray.

- 1 **Cast/Costumes:** **NARRATOR** — Sometimes the narrator, sometimes
 2 a character.
- 3 **DELLA** — The good daughter, hardworking and trustworthy.
- 4 **BRITTANY** — The prodigal. Self-centered, lazy.
- 5 **MOTHER** — Kind and loving but still the boss of the place.
- 6 **HOMELESS WOMAN** — Helps Brittany by getting her a
 7 cleaning job. (Could be played by Narrator to reduce number of
 8 roles.)
- 9 **BOSS** — The opposite of the Mother. (Could be played by
 10 Narrator to reduce number of roles.)
- 11 **Props:** Cell phone, mop, and bucket for Brittany; donut for Boss.
- 12 **Set:** No set pieces needed except a stool for Della to put imaginary box
 13 upon.
- 14 **Running Time:** Eight to ten minutes.
- 15
- 16 **NARRATOR:** Once there was a woman who had two
 17 daughters. The first daughter was faithful. She was always
 18 working, always helping, always doing what needed to be
 19 done.
- 20 **DELLA:** Come on back. Come on back. Whoa. Stop right there.
 21 (*Signs something that the NARRATOR gives her.*) There you
 22 go. Now, I need you to put it right over here.
- 23 **NARRATOR:** Sorry, I'm on my break.
- 24 **DELLA:** What? What do you mean? I have to do it myself? Oh,
 25 honestly! (*She begins to unload truck and pantomimes carrying*
 26 *a "box." Staggeres across the stage.*)
- 27 **NARRATOR:** The second daughter was very busy, too. She was
 28 busy talking on the phone to her friends. She was busy
 29 dreaming dreams about the lives of the rich and famous.
 30 She was busy plotting how she could grow up and get
 31 away from her life. And she was always too busy to help
 32 her sister.
- 33 **DELLA:** (*Crosses back to get a box.*) Brittany, help me get these
 34 boxes.
- 35 **BRITTANY:** I'm busy. I'm on the phone with a customer. (*On*

- 1 *cell phone*) What? That's just my sister. She's unloading
2 some stupid boxes. I guess I'll have to call you back. What?
3 Oh, I can stay on for a few more minutes. (*DELLA crosses*
4 *back by and BRITTANY says to her*) Do you mind? I need
5 some privacy.
- 6 DELLA: (*Crosses back with "box."*) Don't mind me. I'm just
7 unloading an entire truck by myself. (*Exits.*)
- 8 BRITTANY: My sister is so full of herself. She drives me up the
9 wall. We live in such a small town with so many small-
10 minded people who don't know how to have a good time.
11 They wouldn't know fun if it rose up and bit them. Oh,
12 great. Here she comes again. I'm going in the closet. (*Moves*
13 *out of sight.*)
- 14 DELLA: (*Puts box on stool.*) Where did that girl go? (*Wipes*
15 *forehead.*) I can't get any help out of her.
- 16 NARRATOR: Della worked hard, and sometimes she just had
17 to complain to her mother.
- 18 MOTHER: (*Enters.*) Hello, Della. What's the matter?
- 19 DELLA: Guess.
- 20 MOTHER: You aren't moving those heavy boxes by yourself,
21 are you?
- 22 DELLA: Who do you think is going to help me?
- 23 MOTHER: Well, Brittany, of course.
- 24 DELLA: In case you haven't noticed, Brittany may be in the
25 building, but she isn't really here!
- 26 MOTHER: I get your point. I'll try to find her ... (*Exits.*)
- 27 DELLA: (*Picks up box.*) Only three more. Hey! Who locked this
28 door? Brittany? Brittany, are you in there? Brittany, for
29 crying out loud! (*Drops box on foot. Hops off.*) Mom! Mom!
30 (*BRITTANY enters. She's listening to someone on her cell phone.*)
- 31 NARRATOR: For Brittany, there were two things to do. One
32 was to grow up and lose her chance at fun. She wasn't
33 doing that.
- 34 BRITTANY: (*On cell phone*) No way!
- 35 NARRATOR: The other was to follow her dreams wherever

- 1 they led her. (*MOTHER and DELLA enter. BRITTANY*
2 *crosses to them.*)
- 3 BRITTANY: Mother, Jamie is moving. She wants me to come
4 with her, but I need some money. Do you think I could
5 have an advance on my salary?
- 6 DELLA: An advance? How can you get an advance when you
7 aren't planning to be here to earn it?
- 8 MOTHER: How much?
- 9 BRITTANY: Oh, I don't know. Say, enough to last me a year.
- 10 DELLA: Unbelievable.
- 11 MOTHER: (*Handing her a wad of bills*) Here's your money. You
12 must call me every day just to tell me you're OK.
- 13 BRITTANY: Oh, I will. Bye, Della. Be sweet. (*Exits.*)
- 14 DELLA: Why did you give her money? She'll spend every
15 dime and call up for more.
- 16 MOTHER: I'm more concerned she might get herself killed.
17 (*MOTHER and DELLA exit.*)
- 18 NARRATOR: So the girl went away. Soon Brittany
19 discovered why her friend Jamie wanted her to have so
20 much money in advance.
- 21 BRITTANY: (*To NARRATOR*) You spent my money? On what?
22 On those parties? How could you do that? That was all
23 the money I had. You said it was my rent for the next
24 year.
- 25 NARRATOR: Look, life happens. Get over it.
- 26 BRITTANY: (*Walks toward center.*) But what am I supposed to
27 do?
- 28 NARRATOR: Brittany ended up at a homeless shelter.
29 (*HOMELESS WOMAN enters and stands by BRITTANY.*)
- 30 BRITTANY: This place smells awful. Some of these people
31 are just frightening. I have to get out of here.
- 32 HOMELESS WOMAN: What you need is a job.
- 33 BRITTANY: Yes! What have you got? I'll take it. When do we
34 start? I'll be ready first thing in the morning.
- 35 HOMELESS WOMAN: No, we go now. We're night shift

1 janitors. We got to clean the train station from top to
 2 bottom. You got it?

3 **BRITTANY:** Clean?

4 **HOMELESS WOMAN:** (*Hands supplies to BRITTANY.*) Here's
 5 your bucket, your mop, and your bottle of cleaner. Make
 6 it last, honey. The boss may look like your mama, but
 7 she's not a very nice person.

8 **NARRATOR:** The boss did look like Brittany's mother, and
 9 she was indeed *not* a nice person.

10 **BOSS:** (*Enters eating doughnut.*) You didn't do a very good job
 11 tonight. I'm gonna have to deduct twenty dollars from
 12 your pay.

13 **BRITTANY:** It was my first night. I'll do better tomorrow
 14 night.

15 **BOSS:** And I'll take ten more dollars for all that cleaner you
 16 used. You had nothing left.

17 **BRITTANY:** But I need money. How am I going to live? I
 18 don't have enough money for food.

19 **BOSS:** I'm finished with this doughnut. (*Holds out uneaten half.*
 20 *BRITTANY takes it and walks away.*)

21 **NARRATOR:** This went on day after day until one day
 22 Brittany saw herself in the mirror. (*BRITTANY is cleaning*
 23 *the floor when she looks up and walks toward the mirror.*)

24 **BRITTANY:** I look like I've been run over by a train. What
 25 has happened to me?

26 **NARRATOR:** Then she remembered her mother.

27 **BRITTANY:** Even the dog at my mother's house eats better
 28 than I do. I wonder if she would take me back. (*Exits.*)

29 **NARRATOR:** Brittany hitchhiked home and when she got out
 30 of the car, she stood across the street and watched. She
 31 was afraid. (*BRITTANY re-enters. MOTHER enters and sees*
 32 *her.*)

33 **MOTHER:** Brittany, is that you? Come here, child! (*Hugs her.*)
 34 I aged a million years while you were gone.

35 **BRITTANY:** Mother, I'm sorry. I'm so sorry! I'll work. I'll pay

1 you back all that I owe you. You'll see that I've changed.
2 MOTHER: I can see that already!
3 DELLA: (*Enters and sees BRITTANY.*) What are you doing
4 here?
5 BRITTANY: I've come home. I — I'm sorry, Della. I really am.
6 MOTHER: Go take a shower, and we'll talk later. (*BRITTANY*
7 *exits.*)
8 DELLA: What is she doing home? She took all that money
9 from you and spent every dime!
10 MOTHER: I know — and now she's home. I'm going to fix the
11 best dinner we ever ate in this house.
12 DELLA: How can you let her come home? She took your
13 money!
14 MOTHER: I know, and now she's changed. She's sorry.
15 DELLA: (*Unmoved*) I see. I have done everything for you, but
16 you never gave me money. I never caused you a
17 moment's grief or worry, but you never made a special
18 dinner for me. I don't understand you!
19 MOTHER: Your sister was lost. Now she's returned. I thought
20 you would rejoice, too. I thought you would understand.
21 You are so dear to me. You have been with me all the
22 time, and everything that I have is yours. But don't you
23 see? We have to celebrate, for this is your sister whom I
24 thought was dead, and she's alive! She was lost in the
25 world, but she has found herself and asked forgiveness.
26 Wouldn't you want the same love and forgiveness if you
27 had been lost? Now come on. You make the mashed
28 potatoes and I'll make the gravy.
29 NARRATOR: What love our God has for us that he can
30 forgive us no matter what. He knows we sin. He knows
31 our sin may ruin our lives. But when we turn to him, he
32 says, "Yes, you can come home again. You can have a
33 new life in me. And I will celebrate, and you will feel the
34 joy of my love once again." (*ALL exit.*)
35



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