



*Written by  
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## "Slow Down"

**Scripture: Psalm 23: 1, 2**

*"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters."*

**Dramatic Category:** "Three-in-One Skit"

**What is a "Three-in-One" Skit?**

Another variation of a "Three-in-One Skit" presents three separate stories being told to illustrate one theme. They take place across the stage, from stage right to stage left, with the first scene freezing at its conclusion, and the next one beginning when the lights come up on it. Each scene ends up with the same conclusion or summary statement. All three scenes freeze when they are finished, and the pastor has the option of walking right up to them and using them as mannequins to illustrate his sermon. He may prefer to have the players exit the stage, but leave a prop in the scene (like a book or a folder, etc.) that he can pick up and refer to, reminding the audience what this scene was about and why it illustrates the point he is making in his sermon. This art form is very unique and surprising!

A "Three-in-One Skit" provides a very memorable introduction, conclusion, or mid-way example for the pastor as he presents the church sermon. It gives your drama ministry a first-hand opportunity to link with the pastor to create a sermon illustration that will compliment any topical or expository sermon.

**Topic:** Relax! Rest in God.

**Performance Time:** 8 minutes

**Number of Players:** 6 players (*1 man, 3 women, 2 little girls*) and 2 or more singers

**Objective:**

To present a sharp contrast between three chaotic scenes enacted against the background of a calm song that tells us to slow down and quiet ourselves.

## Synopsis:

This "Three-in-One Skit" presents a sharp contrast between the gentle music that sets the stage for it and the "hurried, harried, and hassled" pace at which we live our lives. In scene 1, Tom takes his girls to school, amidst last minute homework, forgotten lunches and traffic. In scene 2, Patrice has last minute computer problems: and finally, in scene 3, poor Patty cannot meet her boss, Donna's, expectations at work. The recurring chorus of gentle "slow down" music drives home the point that we must learn to relax and rest in the Lord because there are "green pastures" all around us if we will notice them.

**Cast:** (in addition to 2 or more singers + musicians)

(Scene 1)

Tom: *a harried father, late in taking his girls to school*

Allee: *his little daughter*

Alyssa: *his other daughter*

(Scene 2)

Patrice: *a working woman frantically trying to leave the house in the morning*

(Scene 3)

Donna: *an unforgiving, impatient boss*

Patty: *a distressed secretary*

## Props:

(Scene 1)

### **Make a Car:**

Attach a steering wheel to a microphone stand and set it in front of two chairs to indicate the drivers seat. Put Tom and Alyssa in the front seat. Add two chairs to form the back seat, and place Allee in the center of the back seat so that her head is between Tom and Alyssa. The girls have **backpacks, notebooks**, Tom has a **wallet**.

(Scene 2)

### **Create a kitchen counter for Patrice:**

Have her face out from behind a table that has on it: **a toaster, a cell phone, a desk phone, a laptop computer, a printer, butter, a knife**.

(Scene 3)

### **Create a desk for Patty:**

**Litter it with papers, files, coffee cup, etc.**

(Singers)

### **Create the illusion of a fishing hole where the singers sing:**

Place some **silk trees** around their area. Each one holds a **fishing pole**.

They have fishing gear: **hats, vests, a cooler, a net**. They pretend to be fishing and relaxing as they sing.

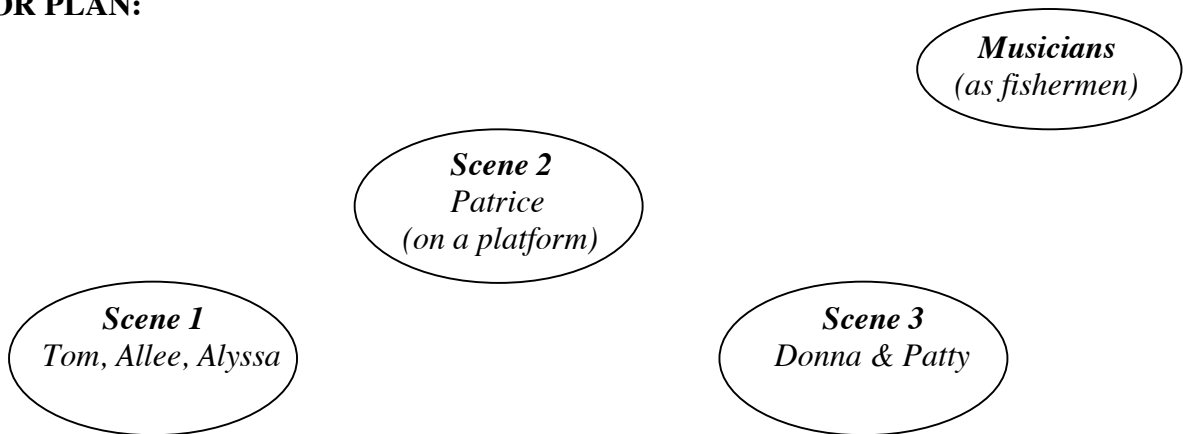
**MUSICAL NOTE:**

Any song that is calming and encourages people to rest in the Lord and quiet their hearts and minds will work in this skit. Simon and Garfunkle's "59<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Song," or "Feelin' Groovy," is recommended; however, be sure to purchase the CD or sheet music from the publishers if you intend to use it. Lyrics quoted in this skit are only suggestions of how the song might serve as a contrasting backdrop for the skit.

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

- Set:** 4 playing areas (*See floor plan below.*)
- Lighting:** If possible, isolate each scene and the singers in light pools
- Microphones:** 3 stationary microphones (in playing areas)  
2 wireless microphones for singers

**FLOOR PLAN:**



**LIGHTING NOTE:**

This skit is done in three light pools. Only the scene that is active is illuminated; the other two are in darkness. This is a "light show" in that the lit spots direct the audience's attention to the next scene. This is a "tableau or freeze-pose" sketch. The audience is able to see all three couples at one time; however two of the three are always frozen

Light pool 4 (musician pool) is full up during the first time the song is sung all the way through, then it fades to 50% for the remainder of the skit, so they look like "silhouettes" reminding us to relax.

**The Script:**

**LIGHTS:***Up on musicians*

**MUSIC:** *Sing Simon & Garfunkle's 59<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Song: "Feelin' Groovy" through once, performance-style, (as fishermen, casting out into the audience?)*

**LIGHTS:***Segue from musicians to scene 1*

**MUSIC:**"la da da da da da da..."

**Scene 1: "Frantic Family" (Tom, Allee, and Alyssa)**

*(The girls are frantically trying to finish their homework. Tom is navigating through traffic. The girls sway to and fro in the direction in which Tom is turning the steering wheel. When he steps on the brakes, the girls tip forward.)*

**Tom:** *(trying to navigate through traffic)*  
You've got five minutes to finish your homework girls.

**Allee:** But, I don't know my capitals!

**Alyssa:** I have to memorize the presidents.

**Tom:** Hurry! When we get to school, you have to jump out; we're late!

**Alyssa:** Who was the sixteenth president?

**Allee:** What's the capital of Washington D.C.?

**Tom:** Washington.

**Alyssa:** Washington was first; who was sixteenth?

**Tom:** Lincoln.

**Allee:** Lincoln is the capital of Washington?

**Tom:** No! Nebraska.

**Alyssa:** There was never a President Nebraska!

**Allee:** I forgot my lunch!

**Tom:** You can buy lunch at school; here...  
*(He tries to drive while fumbling for his wallet)*

**Alyssa:** If she gets to buy; so do I.

**Tom:** You can both buy! *(Tom hands the wallet to Allee in the back seat.)  
(leaning out he window) Move it! I haven't got all day!  
(Allee takes out money.)*

**Allee:** *(sassy)* Just because I buy, doesn't mean you have to buy.

**Alyssa:** It does too! *(They argue: "Does too...Does not...etc...")*

**Tom:** *(The car comes to sudden stop; the girls lunge forward.)  
Get out!  
(The girls gather their books, and exit in a hurry. Allee keeps Tom's wallet.)  
My wallet! Come back here!*

**LIGHTS:** **FADE OUT ON SCENE 1. MUSICIANS STILL AT 50%**

**MUSIC:** "Slow down, you're mov'in too fast...."  
"la da da da da da da...."  
*(They cast their poles and lean back)*

**Scene 2: "Panicked Presenter" (Patrice)**

*(Patrice does five things at once and is trying to get out of the house. She is obviously frazzled.)*

**Patrice:** *(On the cell phone while also working at her computer)*  
Sure...  
I can be there in 20 minutes; maybe 15.  
I just printed out my presentation.

*(She puts toast in the toaster and grabs the butter with her free hand)*  
No...  
I faxed the schedule to you this morning, early.  
It should be there; look again.  
Yes, I'm sure.  
I know what I did.  
I'm not crazy...yet!

*(She reacts to the cell phone ringing.)*  
Just a minute.  
My other phone is ringing.

*(She squeezes the cell phone into her neck, while picking up the phone that is ringing with her hand. She gets butter on the phone and tries to wipe it off with her hand.)*

Hello. Oh good.  
Yes, give me directions.  
*(She grabs the knife instead of a pencil.)*

Let me get some paper.

*(She can't find any!)*  
No paper!

*(She goes to the printer, but discovers that her computer didn't print because it is out of paper.)*  
My printer is out of paper, too; just a minute.

*(realizing the seriousness of this)*  
Out of paper! Oh no!  
My proposal didn't print either!  
Hold on!

*(She pushes print on her computer, but it won't print.)*  
Come on!  
*(She shakes the computer frantically.)*  
This is not the time for a system error!

*(The toast pops up.)*  
Now, who's toast?

**LIGHTS: FADE OUT ON SCENE 2. MUSICIANS AT 50%**

**MUSIC:** "Ya' got to make the mornin' last...."  
"la da da da da da da...."  
*(They cast their poles and lean back)*

**Scene 3: "Big-mouthed Boss" (Donna and Patty)**

*(Patty is typing quickly at her desk. Donna enters with a stack of files and tosses them in front on Patty.)*

**Donna:** These are the files on the Hawkins case.  
I need these reports on my desk by noon.

**Patty:** I'm working on the Malone documents now. Do you want me to hold off on finishing those and move to Hawkins?

**Donna:** No!  
I needed Malone yesterday, and now I'm behind because you're too slow!

**Patty:** I'm working as fast as I can.

**Donna:** You're not fast enough. This firm is like a chain, Patty, and I'm sure you've heard it said, "A chain is only as strong as it's weakest link."

**Patty:** I'm trying!

**Donna:** That's the problem. You're very trying!

*(Patty puts her head in her hands and sobs, and Donna stares with her arms folded.)*

**LIGHTS:** **FADE OUT ON SCENE 3. MUSICIANS AT 50%**

**MUSIC:** "I got no deeds to do, no promises to keep...  
I'm dappled and drowsy, and ready to sleep,  
"la da da da da da da...."

**LIGHTS:** **Keep musicians in 50% light.**  
**Up on scene 1: Tom's head is on the steering wheel.**  
**Then, lights out. Tom exits.**

**MUSIC:** "Feelin' Groovy"  
"la da da da da da da...."

**LIGHTS:** **Keep musicians in 50% light.**  
**Up on scene 2: Patrice is pounding on her keyboard.**  
**Then, lights out. Patrice exits.**

**MUSIC:** "Feelin' Groovy"  
"la da da da da da da...."

**LIGHTS:** **Keep musicians in 50% light.**  
**Up on scene 3: Donna turns in a huff and walks away.**  
**Then, lights out. Patty exits.**

**MUSIC:** "Feelin' Groovy"  
*(Instrumental finish)*

"Feelin' Groovy"  
*(The musicians tip their hats to the audience)*

**LIGHTS:** **FADE OUT AND RETURN TO SERMON LIGHTING**

**Sermon:**

The pastor may want to use the playing spaces. He may want to go sit in the car and discuss the pace of today's lifestyle.

He may choose to walk into the kitchen and comment on the multiple tasks we all must perform.

He may sit at the desk and discuss the unrealistic expectations that are put on us by both our employers and ourselves.