



Written by  
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## "Is That All There Is?"

**Scripture:** 1 John 2: 17

*"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of the eyes, and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever."*

**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:** Life without God is meaningless.

**Performance Time:** 4 minutes

**Number of Players:** 8 players (2 men, 6 women)

**Objective:**

This skit shows that when we look to our jobs, our relationships, and our possessions to give us personal significance, we will remain forever empty. Only a life lived in service to God brings us lasting satisfaction.

**Synopsis:**

*Scene 1* portrays a young couple paying their bills; before they know it, all their money is gone. All they have to spend for their month's work is the \$20.00 he got as "cash back" when he deposited his paycheck.

*Scene 2* portrays an embittered mother, whose second daughter is getting married. While visiting the wedding planner, she warns the mother of a first-time bride, that she'll never see her daughter again.

*Scene 3* portrays a man who has been retired by his company from his executive position, but to save his dignity, he has been offered a job in the mailroom.

**Cast:***(Scene 1)*

Brian: *a harried husband, trying to pay his bills*  
Jenn: *his wife*

*(Scene 2)*

Patty: *the first-time mother of the bride*  
Ashley: *the bride*  
Lori: *the wedding consultant*  
Donna: *a bitter mother, whose second daughter is getting married*

*(Scene 3)*

Ed: *an executive, being retired against his will*  
Carol: *his distressed secretary*

**Props:***(Scene 1)*

A computer  
A table  
Miscellaneous bills  
A \$20 bill

*(Scene 2)*

3 chairs  
Bridal magazines

*(Scene 3)*

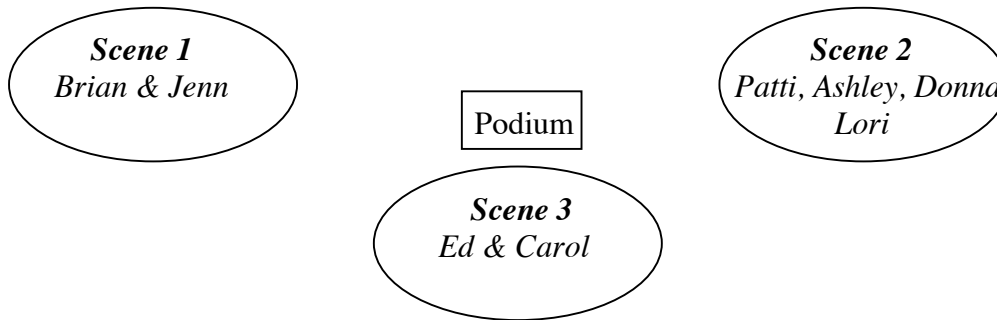
A cardboard box  
A picture frame  
A plant  
A list  
A chair

**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. When one couple ends their scene, they freeze in position; their last line sets up the next couple’s first line. 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.

**Set:** Three playing areas (*See floor plan below.*)

**FLOOR PLAN:**



**The Script:**

**LIGHTS:** UP ON POOL 1

**SOUND:** (Optional: Play the sound track of the movie “Jaws” as he pays the bills and through to the end of this scene.)

**Scene 1:**

**Brian:**

*(He stares mechanically into the screen of his lap-top computer, entrenched in the task of paying bills. He picks up a bill with one hand, then types in the numbers with his other hand. He is talking to himself.)*

House payment....	<i>(He types in an amount &amp; hits the “pay” button )</i>	Pay!
Car payment....	<i>(He types in an amount &amp; hits the “pay” button )</i>	Pay!
Boat payment....	<i>(He types in an amount &amp; hits the “pay” button )</i>	Pay!
Time Share.....	<i>(He types in an amount &amp; hits the “pay” button )</i>	Pay!

**Jenn:** *(entering with caution, staring at the screen, obviously worried about the money)*

Did you pay everything?

**Brian:** *(He holds up his hand to silence her while he concentrates.)*  
Line of Credit  
*(He types in an amount and hits the “pay” button )* Pay!  
*(To Jenn)* I think I paid everything that is due by the 15<sup>th</sup>.  
Does this look right to you?

**Jenn:** *(staring at the screen over his shoulder.)*  
Did you make the payment on the jet skies?

**Brian:** We put those on the VISA. See, I paid the minimum, right here.  
*(He points to the screen.)*

**Jenn:** *(thinking)* The plasma screen?

**Brian:** Got it. Master Card. *(he points to the screen.)*

**Jenn:** *(staring at the screen)* I think that’s it.

**Brian:** Good. *(He begins to gather up the bills.)*

**Jenn:** *(after a short pause.)* Do we have enough to make it to the 1<sup>st</sup>?

**Brian:** *(staring up at her awkwardly, and fumbling through the bills to find the twenty.)*  
I got some cash back when I deposited my paycheck.  
*(He hands her \$20.00)*

**Jenn:** We only have twenty dollars left? *(in disbelief)* Is that all there is?

**LIGHTS: FADE OUT ON SCENE 1. UP ON SCENE 2**

**Scene 2:**

*(Patti and her daughter, Ashley, are delighted to be at the wedding planner’s shop. Donna sits off to SR looking rather disenchanted with the whole event.)*

**Lori:** *(To Ashley)* Did you decide on your bouquet?

**Ashley:** *(surprised)* Can we order that here, too?

**Lori:** Of course! We plan the “moment” so you can live “in the moment.”

**Ashley:** Mom, I can decide my bridal bouquet today!

**Patti:** *(thrilled and beginning to leave with Lori and Ashley.)* Let’s do white roses.

**Ashley:** *(stopping Patti in her tracks)* I want to pick this out by myself, Mom.  
I know what I want.

**Lori:** (To Patti) We'll be right back.

(Patti stares in disbelief as they exit; she sits down on the other end of the row of chairs where Donna is reading a bridal magazine.)

**Donna:** (satirically) That's how it starts.

**Patti:** (curious) Excuse me?

**Donna:** First, she stops wanting your opinion... next, she stops wanting your company.

**Patti:** What are you talking about?

**Donna:** Grown children, that's the way they get.  
Enjoy them while they're young, while they still need you.

**Patti:** Ashley needs me.

**Donna:** Today maybe, but before the rice hits the floor, she's out the door...  
living her own life...without you.

**Patti:** (trying to be cheery) You don't know that for sure.

**Donna:** I do. I know it fist hand. My daughter, Cindy, got married last summer, and now her little sister, Anna is lost in candied lace and china patterns.  
They're living their own lives now; I'm part of their past.

**Patti:** Now it's just you and your husband?

**Donna:** No, Carl and I were divorced when the girls were young, (pause)  
but I do have a cat, and cable TV.

**Patti:** Is that all there is?

**LIGHTS:** FADE OUT ON SCENE 2. UP ON SCENE 3

**Scene 3:**

(Ed and Carol talk DC. He holds up a picture frame for a moment, then packs it into a box. He holds a plant in one hand. Carol, his secretary, enters.)

**Carol:** Is that your last box, Mr. Masters?

**Ed:** Yes. All that's left to pack now is my dignity. (He looks in the box.)  
It won't take up much space.

**Carol:** I'm so sorry. (*She tries to cheer him up.*) I have that list of other jobs the company is offering you.

**Ed:** Go ahead, Carol; read my mail one last time.

**Carol:** There's a middle-management position in Anchorage.

**Ed:** Alaska? (*Carol nods*)

**Carol:** Oh...Here's a job that doesn't involve relocation: Inventory controller?

**Ed:** Stacking boxes?

**Carol:** Operations needs a driver.

**Ed:** Errand boy?

**Carol:** There's an opening in the mailroom.

**Ed:** (*staring in disbelief at the list.*) Is that all there is?

**LIGHTS: FADE OUT ON SCENE 3 AND RETURN TO SERMON LIGHTING**

**Sermon Option:**

Leave an item in each scene: a bill, a bridal magazine, the box. The pastor can wander into each scene, pick up the item and expound on the fact that nothing in life lasts or fulfills our deepest needs:

- *not our stuff*
- *not our relationships*
- *not our achievements*

Only a life lived to glorify God brings true personal significance.