



Written by
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“Small Group Nightmare”

Scripture: Galatians 6:2

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Dramatic Category: “Dream Skit”

What is a “Dream Skit”?

"Dream Skits" are Christian dramas in which the central character finds him or herself in a "Twilight Zone"- type situation that simply does not happen in real life, but these unreal happenings give real-world insights. Sometimes, the actor imagines a scene, then that “memory” is acted out on another side of the stage, or the scene takes a turn that projects the character's insecurities or alter-ego. The audience gets a first-hand look at psychological struggles as they manifest themselves in "odd" happenings.

A "Dream Skit" provides a very memorable introduction, conclusion, or mid-way example for the pastor as he presents the 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: The importance of being involved in a small group.

Performance Time: 6 minutes + the sermon

Number of Players: 18-20 players (*6 men, 8 women, 4-6 teens*)

Objective:

This “Dream Skit” encourages people to re-evaluate their pre-conceived notions about what small groups are like. It encourages them to become involved in a small group that meets regularly to study the Bible, to share in each other’s joys, and to help one another through the challenges and sorrows of life. In fellowshiping together, we “fulfill the law of Christ.”

Synopsis:

Andi is encouraging Michelle to join a small group. However, Michelle, is an introvert who has nightmares about what she thinks small groups must be like. We visit one of those nightmares and witness her worst fears coming true: stiff, expressionless, cold people who sit stone-like as the leader drones on from the Bible. Andi assures Michelle that she need not fear joining a small group; we then visit her “imagination” again and see Michelle enjoying herself with a group of Christian co-workers, who decide to share lunch at the office once a

week. A small group is re-defined from having to meet once a week in the evening, to being any time that Christians decide to meet for fellowship and biblical encouragement. The “Dream Skit” ends with three small groups that come to life: In group 1: Michelle is at lunch with friends; in group 2: some teens meet at school; in group 3, three men play golf. All of these fit the biblical definition of a “small group.”

Cast:

The Interview:

Andi: *A friendly woman, encouraging people to join small groups*
Michelle: *A woman who has horrible images of small groups*

The Nightmare:

Kim: *A “look-alike” who portrays Michelle in her imagination*
Jim: *A stern, pompous small group leader*
Leeanne: *An organizer*
Carl: *A man who questions everything*
Mary: *A nurturing, sensitive woman*
Nikki: *A gracious, public speaker*
Penny: *A woman with a prayer need*
Nancy: *A joyful person with a delightful giggle!*

The Lunch Small Group:

Same cast as in “The Nightmare” minus Jim and Carl

The Teen Small Group:

Chris: *The leader of the teen small group*
Teens: *4-6 teenagers*

The Golf Small Group:

Frank: *The leader of the small golf group*
2 golfers: *Men who join Frank*

Costumes:

The Interview:

Michelle and Kim must look alike and dress exactly alike.

The Nightmare & Lunch Small Group:

All the members of “*The Nightmare*” must wear black slacks or skirts with a black top, sweater, or jacket. Underneath this “all black” look, wear colorful shirts, blouses, etc. You will take the black top off during the blackout and be dressed in normal, happy clothes. (Carl and Jim wear black only because they are not in the “Lunch” small group.)

Teen Small Group:

Wear school clothes appropriate for church.

The Golf Group:

Wear typical golf clothing

Props:

A clipboard
A large Bible for Jim
Coffee mugs and food for the lunch scene
9 Bibles
A skateboard
3 sets of golf clubs
A table

Sound:

- 1.) Stationary mics in the “Interview” and in the “Nightmare & Lunch Group”
- 2.) “Twilight Zone” music to introduce the dream sequence
- 3.) Select a "fellowship" song of some sort that encourages people to join together as one body. This song will be played at the end of the skit as three small groups enjoy each other's fellowship.

Lights:

Set four light pools to isolate each scene. The “Nightmare” and “Lunch Group” share one pool. (See diagram below.)

STAGING NOTE:

Use a smoke machine if possible to add special effects to the dream sequence.

**The Interview
&
Teens on Stairs**

Golf Group

**Nightmare
&
Lunch Group**

The Script:

Scene 1: “The Interview”

LIGHTS UP ON STAGE RIGHT

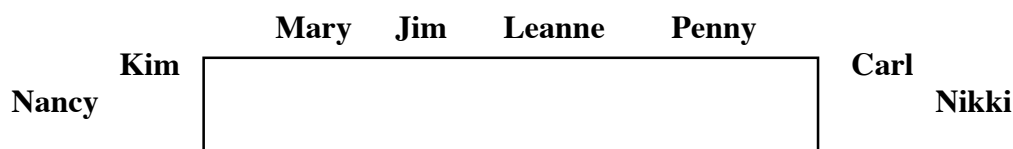
(Michelle and Andi are seated at two chairs. Michelle is obviously nervous; Andi is writing on a clipboard.)

- Michelle:** It’s hard to explain, I just feel like this little tiny grain of sand on a huge beach. I hardly notice myself.
- Andi:** That’s why you need to join one of these small groups. *(She flips through pages on her clipboard.)* This is a friendly church!
- Michelle:** I know, everybody’s friendly, and we exchange smiles as we cruise past the doughnuts, but I feel like so few people really know me; you know, really know me....and how many people do I really know?
- Andi:** You know me.
- Michelle:** Right, I know you and my dentist; he goes to second service.
- Andi:** That’s why you should join a small group; you’d meet people.
- Michelle:** *(ignoring Andi’s suggestion and continuing her train of thought.)*
I mean, what if I got really sick, and I needed food. Who would know?
Who would care?
- Andi:** I’d bring you a casserole, and so would your dentist.
- Michelle:** *(pause)* I bet his would be really “filling.” Get it? Dentist...filling?
- Andi:** *(ignoring the lousy pun)* You’re ignoring my suggestion. Why don’t you join a small group Bible study? The whole church is organizing into small groups for this very reason.
- Michelle:** To make casseroles?
- Andi:** No! I mean, yes. No....not just casseroles, but they would know if you needed one. A small group is the place to open up your life and let in some Christian fellowship.
- Michelle:** No thanks. I’ve had nightmares about small group Bible studies.
- SOUND:** “Twilight Zone” during the light transition
- LIGHTS:** OUT ON STAGE RIGHT
UP ON STAGE LEFT

SPECIAL EFFECT: Smoke at stage left to create the dream sequence

Scene 2: “The Nightmare”

(Eight people sit around a table. They are dressed in black, expressionless, and stiff. Michelle’s look-alike, Kim, does not wear black, but matches Michelle’s outfit exactly. Kim sits one over from Jim. She is wide-eyed and obviously in shock at all of this. Jim is standing in the center with his Bible open. The seating chart is as follows:)



Jim: Tonight we continue in our study of the book of Numbers, chapter 8, verse 5. Open your Bibles, and follow along as I read. “The Lord said to Moses.....”

(The group obediently opens their Bibles. They do not dare to glance around until Nikki interrupts with her question.)

Nikki: Shouldn’t we see how everybody’s doing first?

Leanne: That will take time.

Penny: I have a prayer request.

Mary: *(reaching across to Penny)* What is it dear?

Jim: *(harshly)* Save it.

(Mary glares at Jim, who then asks:)

Jim: All right. How’s everybody doing?

(The individuals answer stoically from stage right to left in monotone voices, staring straight ahead, as Jim disinterestedly thumbs through his Bible.)

Nancy: Fine.

Kim: Fine.

Mary: Fine.

Jim: *(grumbling and not even looking up.)* Fine.

Leanne: Fine.

Penny: Fine.

Carl: Fine.

Nikki: *(with resignation)* Fine.

Jim: Okay then, now that our time of fellowship is behind us, let's get to the work of the evening.
(He begins to read in a booming voice.)

“The Lord said to Moses, “Take the Levites from among the other....”

Carl: *(Interrupting Jim.)* What's a Levite?

Nancy: A pair of Jeans.

(She breaks out in a charming giggle trying to lighten the depressing tone, but the entire group snaps their heads in her direction and it stops her laugh cold.)

LIGHTS OUT AT STAGE LEFT

LIGHTS UP AT STAGE RIGHT

Scene 3: “The Interview Continues”

(Michelle and Andi continue their conversation)

Andi: Oh come on! Small groups aren't like that.

Michelle: How do you know?

Andi: I've been in one. We met every Thursday night, and these people became some of my dearest friends.

Michelle: By the time I get home from work, I'm worn out. I'm not going out again.

Andi: Then be creative.

Michelle: What? Take art lessons?

Andi: No! Meet your small group other time.

Michelle: Don't you have to meet at night?

Andi: No! A small group can be you plus anybody, anytime, anywhere.
Don't you have any Christian co-workers?

Michelle: Yes, I have the girls I work with in accounting.

Andi: Perfect. Do a lunch time Bible study one day each week. The important thing is that you meet regularly for Bible study and fellowship. That's how we grow as Christians. The Bible says that many logs together burn brightly, but if you take one log and put it off by itself, it will go out.

Michelle: We don't have a fireplace at work.

Andi: No, I'm talking about Christian fellowship. We need each other.

Michelle: Oh, I thought you were talking about logs.

Andi: I was, but the point is the same. You see Jesus says we're like logs on a fire, and we need the warmth of each other's faith to help us make it through life's ups and downs....*(Andi realizes that she has lost Michelle who is still pondering the log connection.)* Just imagine turning your office friends into a small group Bible study.

LIGHTS OUT AT STAGE RIGHT

LIGHTS UP AT STAGE LEFT

Scene 4: "Lunch time"

(The girls are meeting for lunch around the same table where the Nightmare group was. The players are the same, minus Carl and Jim. During the blackout, the girls have removed their black outer garments to reveal the normal, colorful clothes underneath. They are chatting away merrily while some are eating. Nancy opens the scene with a contagious giggle.)

Nikki: *(She gently quiets the group down.)* So anyway, let's finish up Galatians chapter 6 today. In verse 2, Paul says: "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Penny: Really?

Nikki: Really.

Mary: Is something wrong?

Kim: You can tell us.

Penny: It's my daughter. I just can't get through to her.

Leanne: Let's pray about that right now.

Nancy: *(Several lay their hands on Penny's shoulders)*
 Lord, we lift up our sister, Penny, to you

LIGHTS FADE OUT ON STAGE LEFT

OPTION:

*If your church is in the process of forming small groups, fade out on the stage lights and bring **LIGHTS UP ON SPEAKER'S PODIUM**. Have someone make announcements regarding the process for signing up for a small group. At the conclusion of the announcement, **FADE OUT PODIUM LIGHT**.*

BRING UP THREE LIGHT POOLS, thus, isolating the three small groups who pantomime their conversations so the...

SOUND OF THE FELLOWSHIP SONG can be heard.

FADE UP ON THE "FELLOWSHIP" SONG

Small group 1: Golfers at center stage

(Pantomime a scene of golfers playing golf together and miming conversation. One of the golfers pauses, the others gather around him and pray for him.)

Small group 2: Teens at stage right

(A group of teens settle in the same place "The Interview" was. They lean against their backpacks, drink their soda, and chat together. Two of them have Bibles, and one is taking the lead in the mime conversation.)

Small group 3:

(Return to the office lunch fellowship group. The girls continue their mime conversation.)

ALL LIGHTS FADE OUT

SOUND: SONG FADES OUT

LIGHTS UP ON SPEAKERS' PODIUM

SERMON CONTINUES....