



Written by
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“Finding ‘H’”

Scripture: Hebrews 6: 19

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 “HOPE” of Heaven

Performance Time: 15 minutes

SCRIPT NOTE:

This skit is complex, so place a copy of the teacher’s lines in his/her math book, and place the “cheat script” in the notebooks of the students. To expect people to memorize this completely is a bit unrealistic; however, you might have an expert team who can handle it. *(The "cheat script" for the substitute teacher is found at the end of this skit.)*

Number of Players: 8 players *(4 men, 3 women)*

Objective:

Often, when Christians go through hard times, God asks us to hold onto what we "know" is true rather than how we "feel" at the time. This is when our "hope" for Heaven can bring us a perspective and a sanity that the unsaved cannot understand.

Synopsis:

This skit encourages us to be logical, even mathematical, in our understanding of the "formula" by which Christians must live during times of trouble. In this skit, four adults attend a math class at night school; however, their teacher is mysteriously replaced by a substitute, who hands them books that don't contain math problems; they contain each individual student's "real life" problem. As the students look on with amazement, the substitute begins to show each one of them how the same "spiritual" formula can help them solve all of their "real life" problems. She draws out this formula:

$$\frac{\text{(God's love = Jesus' death)} + \text{(belief in Him = eternal life)}}{\text{Courage during trouble}} = \mathbf{H}$$

Cast:

Ken: *a man whose wife just filed for divorce*
Paula: *a single mother of three who is exhausted*
Marty: *a young woman in great emotional pain*
Neal: *the over-achiever who can not please his boss*
Teacher: *over-enthused, adult education teacher*
Substitute: *upbeat substitute, appearing out of nowhere*
Rod Serling: *the classic host of the "Twilight Zone" television show*

Props:

For Paula:

A purse
A compact
A lipstick

For Marty:

A purse
A small aspirin bottle
A water bottle

For Ken:

A newspaper

For Neal:

A briefcase with a plastic holder for pens
Various pens for him to lay out

For All students:

Notebooks
Briefcases
Purses, etc.

For the Teacher & the Substitute:

A white board (or an overhead projector for larger auditoriums)
A dry erase marker
4 books that look alike
A suit appropriate for Rod Serling

For the Set:

4 school-type desks (or chairs with music stands laid flat, looking like desks)

Lighting:

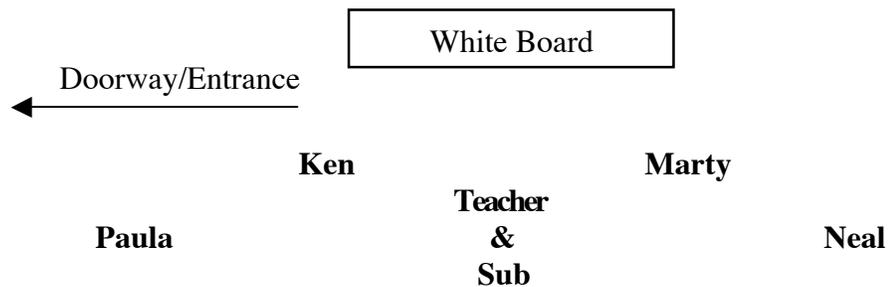
After the students read their personal problems, the stage goes dark and a blue light illuminates Rod Serling. When Rod leaves, the lighting returns to normal.

Sound:

The "Twilight Zone" theme plays when Rod Serling enters both times. This theme can be secured on a CD of television shows theme songs, or it can be played "live."

STAGING NOTE:

Be sure the characters face front with their bodies, but their desks are at a 1/4 turn in toward the white board and toward each other. (See diagram below:)



The Script:

(The adult education students enter their math class, carrying their personal belongings, and assuming their seats. The white board is placed in the center. Wise cracks about math begin.)

Ken:

(Slamming his book heavily on to his desk, and opening a newspaper as he talks. The newspaper acts as shield to isolate him from the others.)

These are the longest three hours of my week.

Man, you work all day, then night school.

(Turning to Neal.) Don't you hate this?

Neal:

(Neatly opening his briefcase and arranging his pens.)

It doesn't matter if I hate it or not; it's just one more thing I have to do.

Paula:

(After setting her books down, she takes a compact out of her purse and freshens up her lipstick as she talks.)

I should have finished high school when I was 18; not ten years, one divorce, and three kids later. This math is hard!

Marty:

(After placing her books down, she takes an aspirin bottle out of her purse, opens it, and takes out two pills. She fumbles with her water bottle and takes the pills as she talks.)

Fractions are the worst.

If you only have half a number, then throw it out and get a whole one.

I don't see why anyone would want just part of a number! Do you?

Ken:

Did you take your pills?

Paula:

Don't kid her about that?

Neal:

You can't get a decent job without a high school diploma.

Marty:

Algebra is hard, too! Numbers and letters don't mix. Letters should stay in the alphabet and...

Ken:

(To Marty.) Put a cork in it; if I...

Teacher:

(Enters enthusiastically carrying his math book. He boldly approaches the white board and begins the write: "Find H.")

Good morning!

Here's today's mind-bender equation: Find "H."

Marty: Another letter! Oh dear! Can't we stay with numbers?

Teacher: That's the thrill of Algebra. If you work the formula right, you'll figure out the number.

Listen: *(He writes the formula on the white board as he talks.)*

Mike has 7 baskets; each basket has 10 apples in it, and someone gives him 5 more baskets with 4 apples in each basket, how many apples can Mike give to each of ten players on his team. He can give them "H" number of apples. Find "H."

Neal: *(Getting right to work and mumbling to himself.)*
Seven baskets, with ten apples each...

Paula: Five more baskets with 4 apples in....

Ken: What if Mike thinks apples stink?

Marty: What word starts with "H"?

Teacher: Here let me show you how this word problem turns into an equation:
(He repeats the equation and point to what he has written.)

$$\frac{(7 \times 10) + (5 \times 4)}{10} = H$$

The trick to finding "H" is to work out the process inside the parentheses first. If you make a mistake inside the parentheses, you will never find "H." Watch.

$7 \times 10 = 70$ and $5 \times 4 = 20$, therefore; $70 + 20 = 90$
Now you divide 90 by 10 to get "H."

But look what would have happened if I made a mistake inside the parenthesis. What if I said 7×10 was 80.

Neal: That would be incorrect!

Teacher: Right!

Neal: No, wrong. It's 70.

Teacher: Right! I'm wrong, you're right.

Neal: Right.

Teacher: No, wrong...anyway, as I was saying, if your equation doesn't check out, start over and go back to the parenthesis. Be sure you've worked it out right inside the parenthesis, or the whole equation would be wrong and you will never find "H."

Ken: You care that much about "H"?

Teacher: Oh yeah, math is great. It's just like life; full of rules and formulas. If you do this, then that happens. If you follow the formula, you'll always find the answer! That's the way it works. You work on finding "H"; I've got some new math books that just came in for you. I'll go get 'em (*He exits.*)

Ken: I can't wait!

SOUND: LOUD CRASHING SOUND

(The class members look startled, get up, and look out in the direction of the door where their teacher exited. To their amazement, a substitute teacher walks in carrying four books. She is odd, and the students back away from the door while staring at her.)

Sub: Hello. Your Mr. Parker fell; sorry, these things happen. You never know when you're number's up.

Paula: Is he dead?

Sub: No, that's just math talk for rotten luck. I brought your books. Turn to page 216 and work out problem number one. Mr. Parker probably won't be back for a while. (*Looking out the door in the direction of the noise.*) Or maybe ever!

(Passing out the books.) Get to work! Concentration is an important factor in math. Ha--get it; important "factor" in math!

Neal: Factor, I understand!

Sub: This is a word problem. All the more reason to concentrate. You'll get it done in a fraction of the time if you really think!

Neal: Fraction - of course!

Marty: Oh no; not fractions!

Paula: What a wit!

Ken: What a twit!

Sub: Remember, work the parentheses first, then find "H."

Paula: How did you know we were trying to find "H"?

Sub: *(As she exits.)* Everybody is trying to find "H."

(The four students are alone. They open their books with hesitation to page 216. Each one reads the word problem silently, eyes widen, then the books are slammed shut.)

SOUND: TWILIGHT ZONE THEME

(Begin when the last book slams shut. Turn off the music when Rod is in place, after the opening of the Twilight Zone theme music has ended.)

LIGHTS: FADE CLASSROOM LIGHTS, UP ON BLUE SPOT ON ROD

(When the last book slams shut, the characters freeze. The lights change. Rod enters and delivers his message in a blue spot, while motioning to the students.)

Rod: Case in point; four adults, each looking for the value of "H."
How much will they have to search; how complex is the problem?
There's a signpost up ahead; next stop: "The enlightened zone."

LIGHTS: BLUE SPOT OFF, UP ON CLASSROOM LIGHTS

Paula: *(Looking at Ken.)* What does your word problem say?

Ken: None of your business!

Neal: This is very unusual.

(He walks along the outside of the seated students and trying to read their problems. He speaks to Paula.)

Let me see your book.

(He takes it from her, opens it to page 216, begins reading out loud.)

Listen to problem #1 in her book:

“You feel guilty because you can't be with your children.
As a single mom you work all day to make ends meet,
then go to school at night so you can get a better job.
You've never been so tired: Find ‘H’”

Paula: This is weird; that's not a word problem, that's my real problem.
(to Neal) What does yours say?

Neal: Never mind.

Ken:

(Rising to his feet, and snatching Neal's book as Neal tries to stop him; Ken reads it out loud.)

“You work 10-hour days, but you never get overtime;
your coworkers snub you,
and you can't please your boss no matter how hard you try. Find ‘H.’”

Marty: *(to Neal)* You work 10-hour days?
Oh, that's a long time.

Ken: Where did that crazy lady get these books? This is nuts.

Neal: All right, hot shot. Read yours.

Ken: *(with his book shut)* My what.

Neal: *(standing up to Ken and facing him as he speaks)*
Your word problem.
Read it.
You had the guts to read mine; now read yours.

Ken: *(Hesitating, but opening his book. He reads.)*

“This morning, your wife told you she wanted a divorce,
and she's going to fight for custody of both of your little sons.
You feel like life is pointless. Find ‘H.’”

(slamming his book closed.)
Where did she get these books?

Paula: *(standing up to block Marty's exit as she tries to leave)*
What does yours say?

Marty: I have to go now. I don't feel so good.

Ken: Not so fast.

Neal: What does yours say?

Paula: *(Marty hands her book to Paula.)*

“You've lost control of the drugs you're taking for depression,
and now you're using alcohol as well to kill the memories of a painful relationship.
Find ‘H.’”

(She hands the book back to Marty who sheepishly looks at everyone in the room.)

Ken: What's with this find "H" business?

Neal: These aren't math problems; they're life problems.

Paula: And every one is different!

Ken: Where did these books come from?
(General chaos as they talk with one another and pace around the room.)

Marty: This is hopeless! We can't find "H."
(The Sub enters on Marty's line.)

Sub: Don't be ridiculous!
Everybody can find "H,"
and there's not a person in the world who is hopeless!
(The students reluctantly take their seats.)

Ken: What does "H" have to do with my divorce?

Paula: "H" is supposed to pay my bills?

Marty: Or make me feel better?

Neal: Or show me just how much it takes.

Sub: Yes.

Ken: *(accusingly)* Where did you get these books?
If this is a joke, it's not very funny!

Sub: *(holding up one of the books)* This is no joke.
Unless you found these word problems funny.

Paula: They're not funny.

Marty: I don't know how we can find "H."

Neal: *(to Marty)* We can't find "H."

Sub: Everybody in the entire world can find "H,"
no matter what your word problem says; "H" *is* for everybody!

Ken: *(putting her to the test)* All right, then; you find "H."
(He hands her his book.)

Sub: *(She flips to his word problem and mumbles it to herself.)*
First you have to flip back to where this problem is explained.
(She flips back to a different part of the book.)
Every book is like that.
They teach you what to do before they throw the problem at you.

All: *(Nodding their heads.)*

Sub: Now, I don't know what you've been taught before,
but you know that once you learn the formula,
you can plug any word problem into it.
You have learned that?

All: Yes.

Ken: You're gonna' show us how to find "H" in all these problems?

Marty: Is "H" the start of a word?

Neal: No; "H" is a value.
That's how math works.

Sub: You're right, "H" is a value.
Now watch.

(She gets the marker out and begins to write on the white board. The eyes of each one follow her every move. They begin to take notes.)

You know that you're supposed to work the part inside the parenthesis first
or you will end up with the wrong answer, don't you?

Marty: I understand that much.

Sub: Okay, here's the first part.

(She opens up a different part of the book and begins to read.)

NOTE:

Be sure you put a copy of this script inside her book, so she does not become stressed. These lines are confusing, and the others cue off of specific lines.

"For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that
whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

(The class reacts with a puzzled look.)

So, what that means is this:

(She writes the first part of the equation out on the board.)

(God's love = Jesus' death) + (belief in Him = eternal life)

One side of the equation doesn't do you any good unless you add
it to the other side.

(Again, the class reacts with a puzzled look and check with each other to see if they heard her right.)

Now, let me show you how to find "H."

You divide the equation by this.
(She flips to another part of the book she is holding.)

Listen:

"In the world you have trouble, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

Here's how we write that into the bottom half of our equation.

(God's love = Jesus' death) + (belief in Him = eternal life)
Courage during trouble.

As long as we divide each one of the troubles we face in life into what we know about God's love for us and the promise of eternal life, we will find "H."

All: What's "H"?

Sub: Oh, I'm sorry.
That's what all of this has been about. "H" is hope!
Listen:

(She turns to yet another part of the book and reads.)

"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast..."

(She stares at them intently.)

"H" is hope; but, there's only one way to get it.

You have to divide the hard times you are going through into the fact that Jesus died to bring you to God someday. That will give you hope.

Marty: See, I told you! "H" is not a number!

Ken: A bit simple; don't you think.
Our problems are bigger than this little formula.

Neal: How do you check you work?
If "H" is an absolute; then it can be proven.
Where is the theorem?

Paula: Just in case you're wrong, and you don't find "H."

Sub: Then somewhere you made a mistake inside the parenthesis.
Maybe you just don't believe that Jesus died so that your sins can be forgiven,
or maybe you are forgetting to divide every bad time you go through
into the good times God has promised you.

You have to work every part of the formula, or you won't find hope.
Lots of people forget that no matter how bad things get emotionally or physically,

(She points to the hard times.)
they can't get much better spiritually!

(She points to the top line.)

Ken: *(He holds his book out.)* Do we have the same book you have?

Sub: *(looking at the book Ken extends)*
You've had this book all your lives;
the problem is you haven't read the right parts.

(She exits.)

(The students look at their books.)

SOUND: TWILIGHT ZONE THEME

(Begin the theme when the Sub exits. Turn off the theme when Rod is in place, after the opening of the Twilight Zone theme music ends.)

LIGHTS: FADE CLASSROOM LIGHTS, UP ON BLUE SPOT ON ROD

(When the sub exits, the characters freeze. The lights change. Rod enters and delivers his closing message a blue spot, while motioning to the students.)

Rod: Will they read the right parts?
(He stands beside the book that Ken extends and points to it.)
Will they discover that every problem can be solved when they find "H?"
Too simple?
Not when you work both sides of the equation, in "the enlightened zone."

LIGHTS: FADE TO BLACK

(The characters exit.)

The End

Skermom Option:

The pastor may decide to walk up to the stage, stand near each empty chair, and review the needs of the character who sat there. He has the option of reviewing the formula for "Finding H" written on the board, then offer his invitation to all those who have not yet "found H" because they have not accepted Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior.

Substitute Teacher's Cheat Script:

(Insert this into the math book she uses when she lectures to the class. Cut up the dialogue, so she looks like she is flipping to different parts of the book as she reads.)

Sub: **Okay, here's the first part.**

(She opens up a different part of the book and begins to read.)

"For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

(The class reacts with a puzzled look.)

So, what that means is this:

(She writes the first part of the equation out on the board.)

(God's love = Jesus' death)+ (belief in Him = eternal life)

One side of the equation doesn't do you any good unless you add it to the other side.

(Again, the class reacts with a puzzled look and check with each other to see if they heard her right.)

Now, let me show you how to find "H."

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Courage during trouble.**

As long as we divide each one of the troubles we face life into what we know about God's love for us and the promise of eternal life, we will find "H."

All: **What's "H"?**

Sub: Oh, I'm sorry. That's what all of this has been about. "H" is hope!
Listen:

(She reads in yet another part of the book.)

"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast..."

(She stares at them intently.)

**"H" is hope; but there's only one way to get it.
You have to divide the hard times you are going through into the fact that Jesus died to bring you to God someday.
That will give you hope.**

Marty: See, I told you! "H" is not a number!

Ken: A bit simple; don't you think. Our problems are bigger than this little formula.

Neal: How do you check you work? If "H" is an absolute; then it can be proven. Where is the theorem?

Paula: Just in case you're wrong, and you don't find "H."

Sub: Then somewhere you made a mistake inside the parenthesis.
Maybe you just don't believe that Jesus died so that your sins can be forgiven,

or maybe you are forgetting to divide every bad time you go through into the good times God has promised you.

You have to work every part of the formula, or you won't find hope.

Lots of people forget that no matter how bad things get emotionally or physically,

(She points to the hard times.)

they can't get much better spiritually!

(She points to the top line.)

Ken: Do we have the same book you have?
(He holds his book out.)

Sub: *(Looking at the book Ken extends.)*

**You've had this book all your lives;
the problem is you haven't read the right parts. *(Exit)***