



*Written by
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“Happy Anniversary”

Scripture: Philippians 2: 3, 4

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

Dramatic Category: “Rewind Skit” (*With a “Skermion” option that involves the pastor.*)

What is a "Rewind Skit"?

These skits begin with very specific blocking motions and leads up to a wrong conclusion in which some spiritual principle has been violated. The characters freeze in position, the pastor approaches them and comments on the “error of their ways,” then, on his cue, the actors “rewind” the scene, doing all their blocking backwards, until they end up where the scene started. Play “carousel-type” music, or the hymn, “Since Jesus Came Into My Life,” as they rewind. They do the scene again, using much of the same blocking; however, this time the dialogue reflects a renewed spirit in Christ, and the outcome is a testimony of the power of God to change the human heart.

Topic: Prioritizing the interests of your spouse

Performance time: 4 minutes

Number of Players: 2 players (*1 man, 1 woman (husband and wife)*)

Objective:

To encourage husbands and wives to sacrifice some of their own preferences and honor the needs and interests of their spouse.

Synopsis:

This is a “Rewind Skit” in which Nancy and Drew exchange gifts on their 21st wedding anniversary. Nancy gives Drew dancing lesson coupons even though he hates dancing, and Drew gives Nancy a fishing vest even though she hates fishing. The scene ends in a stalemate in which each one is insulted by the other’s gift.

The couple freezes as the pastor comments on what happens in marriage when we look out only for our own interests. At his cue, Nancy and Drew rewind their scene by performing their blocking backwards as “carousel-type” music, or the hymn, “Since Jesus Came Into My Life,” is played.

They return to their original starting points and begin the scene again. This time, Nancy gives Drew a fishing vest that fits **her**, along with her pledge to learn to fish, and Drew gives Nancy coupons for dancing lessons, along with his pledge to learn to dance. Each one clearly states that the goal is to “re-discover each other now that the kids are gone.”

Cast:

Nancy: *Drew’s wife who is grossed-out by fishing*
Drew: *Nancy’s husband who is self-conscience about dancing*

Costumes: 2 fishing vests; one is decorated with lace and pearls the other is plain.

Props:

2 gift bags with dance coupons in them.
2 shirt-size boxes that contain the fishing vests
1 table
2 chairs

Lights: General stage lighting

Sound:

Carousel-type music, or the hymn, “Since Jesus Came Into My Life,” to be played during the rewind

STAGING NOTE:

The stage blocking is essential in this “Rewind Skit” because it has to be done backwards. Pay close attention to the stage directions marked in **bold**.

The Script:

NOTE: Blocking notes are essential; therefore, they are in bold.

The Scene, Take One:

(Nancy enters first; she carries a small envelope with a bow tied around it. She sets the envelope on the table, and straighten the bow so that it is “just so.” She sighs and begins to waltz around the room as though she were dancing. She closes her eyes dreamily and bumps right into her husband, Drew, who is surprised to see her gliding across the floor.)

Drew: *(He tucks an anniversary gift behind his back.)*
Whoa there, Ginger Rogers.

Nancy: Oh...I’m sorry.
(She swoops down, grabs the envelope from the table, and hands it to Drew.)
Happy 21st Anniversary!

Drew: Happy Anniversary, Nance. *(He hands her his package.)*

(They both sit down to open their gifts.)

Nancy: You first.

Drew: *(As he opens the envelope and pulls out the anniversary card, two coupons fall out. He picks up the coupons and reads:)*

Arthur Murray ballroom dance lessons?

Nancy: Isn’t it perfect! It’s just what we need.

Drew: I don’t dance. *(He holds up the coupons)*

Nancy: You can learn.
That’s the beauty of this gift, Drew.
Dancing is something we can do together.
(She gets up and moves behind Drew and puts her arms around him.)

We’re always saying we have to re-discover each other now that the kids are grown up.

Drew: *(unimpressed)* Open yours.

Nancy: *(She sits down, excitedly and opens her gift. Her face falls as she pulls out a fishing vest.)* A fishing vest?

Drew: It's something we can do together.

Nancy: I don't fish.

Drew: You can learn.

Nancy: I feel sad for the fish.

Drew: Why?

Nancy: They're being ripped out of their comfort zone and humiliated until they die an unnatural death, gasping for their last breath.

Drew: That's how I feel when I dance.

Nancy: Dancing is graceful; fishing is barbaric!

Drew: It's not barbaric; it's manly.

Nancy: Real men dance.

Drew: Let me tell you about "real men." They love a challenge. God made us to fight Grizzly bears, build log cabins, and roll boulders off of cliffs. We were not designed to have car trouble or lose a quarter in a vending machine. "Real men" have been sissified in this push-button world, and maybe...just maybe the slumbering warrior in us wakes up even if our opponent is only a fish!

Nancy: Does everything with you have to be about winning?

Drew: No, I can lose; but only after a good fight.

(Nancy is exasperated and turns her back to Drew. He takes the vest and holds it out for her to put on.)

Drew: Come on, Nance, "real women" fish.

Nancy: *(spinning around and facing Drew)*
Let me tell you about "real women." They want to be cherished. God made us to speak a language that has no words. Every look, every gesture, and every cry shouts at us! We measure our lives by the quality of our relationships. We spill a lot of energy building people, and maybe...just maybe it would nice if somebody built us up, too.

Drew: *(bewildered)* And dancing does that for you?

(Nancy turns her back to Drew again; Drew is baffled by her reaction.)

THEY FREEZE IN THIS POSITION

THE PASTOR WALKS UP TO THE FROZEN COUPLE AND COMMENTS ON THE SCENE.

PASTOR: *(He may choose to re-state what they have said about “real men” and “real women” and comment on the opposite, yet compatible, natures of men and women. He should leave this freeze with this question to the audience:)*

**“If God made us so uniquely different, how can we meet each other’s heart-felt needs?
Don’t you wish you could start some conversations over?
Let’s see what would happen if they could take it all back and begin again.”**

(ON THE PASTOR’S CUE, DREW AND NANCY RE-WIND THE SCENE. THEY DO ALL OF THEIR BLOCKING BACKWARDS UNTIL NANCY IS READY TO ENTER TO SCENE AGAIN.)

SOUND:

They may suggest dialogue, speaking backwards so that it sounds like gibberish; however, this must be done very quickly. “Keystone Cops,” “carousel-type” music, or the hymn, “Since Jesus Came Into My Life,” works better, without hearing dialogue. They mouth the words, but don’t bother with trying to say them. Again, this is done double-time, so that it looks like a movie in rewind; it becomes a very funny moment for the audience to enjoy.

ACTIONS: Re-wind these actions:

1. Begin with the frozen scene, but have them move into place backwards.
2. DREW is bewildered,
3. NANCY turns her back to Drew, spins around, faces Drew, gives her “real women” speech, then spins around with her back to Drew again.
4. DREW takes the vest and holds it out for her to put on.
5. NANCY faces Drew, is exasperated, and turns her back to Drew
6. NANCY faces Drew; they argue about fishing vs. dancing (quickly in gibberish or mime)
7. DREW gives his “real men” speech, (quickly in gibberish or mime)
8. NANCY re-packs the fishing vest, then sits ready to open it.
Her face goes from shock to anticipation.
9. NANCY gets up and walks backwards, behind Drew and puts her arms around him then moves backwards back into her seat, and motions from the envelope back to herself.
10. DREW holds up the coupons, then puts them back on the table.
11. DREW’S face shows shock; he picks up coupons, reads them, puts them back into the envelope, closes the envelope, and holds it up.
12. They grab their gifts, both sit down, back out of the chairs and move away from the table.
13. DREW takes his gift from Nancy.
14. NANCY takes her gift from Drew, swoops backwards and places it on the table.
15. DREW takes the gift out from behind his back.
16. DREW is bumped into by NANCY, who dances backwards.
17. DREW backs out of the scene, goes to the place where he entered.

18. NANCY waltzes around the room backwards, closes her eyes, sighs,
19. NANCY straightens the bow, picks up the gift from the table.
20. NANCY walks backwards to the spot where the scene began.

NOTE:

Have the actors practice this before a mirror. First do the action forwards, and then practice doing it backwards. This will work after they really study themselves a few times.

The Scene, Take Two:

NOTE:

Switch Drew’s gift: Drew must quickly grab a “look-alike” gift for him to give to Nancy that looks just like the gift Nancy gave to Drew in the original scene. He cannot use the same envelope because he is at a different side of the stage from Nancy. Place this “look-alike” gift within easy reach, so the exchange can be made as soon as he arrives in the “start” position for the scene.

Switch Nancy’s gift: Nancy must quickly grab a “look-alike” gift for her to give to Drew that looks just like the gift Drew gave to Nancy in the original scene. She cannot use the same gift-box because she is at a different side of the stage from Drew. Place this “look-alike” gift within easy reach, so the exchange can be made as soon as he arrives in the “start” position for the scene.

(Nancy enters first; she carries the same type of box Drew carried in the first scene, but it has the “frilly” fishing vest in it. She sets the gift on the table, and straightens the bow so that it is “just so.” She sighs and begins to waltz around the room as though she were dancing. She closes her eyes dreamily and bumps right into her husband Drew, who is surprised to see her gliding across the floor.)

Drew: *(He tucks the envelope, with the bow on it, behind his back.)*
Whoa there, Ginger Rogers.

Nancy: Oh...I’m sorry.
(She swoops down, grabs the gift from the table, and hands it to Drew.)
Happy 21st anniversary!

Drew: Happy anniversary, Nance. *(He hands her his envelope.)*

(They both sit down to open their gifts.)

Nancy: You first.

Drew: *(eagerly opens the gift, but is amazed at the contents.)*
A fishing vest? *(He holds it up in front of his chest.)*
I appreciate the decorations, Nance, but I don’t think this will fit me.

Nancy: It won't. *(She takes the vest from Drew and put it on.)*
It fits me.

Drew: You hate to fish.

Nancy: I can learn
That's the beauty of this gift, Drew.
Fishing is something we can do together.
(She gets up and moves behind Drew and puts her arms around him.)
We're always saying we have to re-discover each other now that the kids are grown up.

Drew: *(smiling and mumbling something in disbelief.)*

Nancy: *(laughing through the question.)* What?

Drew: I just can't imagine what you would do if you caught something.

Nancy: Oh I don't know, I brought in a pretty good catch 21 years ago.
(She reaches back into the box.)
Oh, look at these.
(She puts on "fly fishing lure" earrings that dangle from her earlobes like bait.)
Quite the picture, huh?

Drew: *(taking her in his arms.)* You would do this for me?

Nancy: Yes. The way I figure it; life has enough change, disappointment, and death built into the journey, and when you've got something worth keeping, you've got to hang on tight.

Drew: *(hugging her, then handing her the envelope)* Open yours.

Nancy: *(She sits down, excitedly and opens her gift. She jumps as she pulls out the dance coupons.)*
Dance lessons!

Drew: It's something we can do together.

Nancy: *(dreamily)* I've always wanted to go ballroom dancing!
(She snaps out of her dream, and soberly says,)
You don't dance!

Drew: I can learn.
I can hang on tight, too.
(He tries to take her into his arms in a dance pose, but he steps on her feet. He backs off, exasperated.)

Nancy: You've always said that you'd die an un-natural death by humiliation if anyone saw you dance.

Drew: *(He points at the coupons.)* Look where we're taking the lessons.

Nancy: Torrance? That's an hour from here.

Drew: We don't know anybody there!

BLACKOUT

Drew and Nancy Exit...sermon continues