



*Written by  
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## “Amazing Grace”

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 10: 12

*“For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.”*

**Dramatic Category:** Skit

**Topic:** Comparison to others

**Performance Time:** 10 minutes

**Number of Players:** 5 players (*4 women, 1 man*)

**Objective:**

It is the purpose of this skit to show the devastating results of comparison. We must not compare ourselves to the world’s standards of perfection; instead, we must seek to please God.

**Synopsis:**

Grace, a slightly overweight young mother, compares herself to the ideal wife of Proverbs 31 as she tries to keep a tidy house and please her husband. She falls short of the ideal daughter-in-law & mother-in-law relationship as well. Her friend Sally, gives her a pair of size five jeans, which she will never fit into at the rate her diet is going, and to top it all off: Nancy wants to go shopping and out for lunch, but poor Grace has neither the time nor the money for such things. Finally, Grace collapses, unable to please anyone, least of all herself.

**Cast:**

Grace: *A young mother: eager to please and slightly overweight*  
John: *Grace’s husband*  
Marion: *A perfectionist mother-in-law looking out for her son*  
Sally: *A bouncy, energetic friend who wears the perfect size five*  
Nancy: *A spiritual giant who has free time and money to play*

**Props:**

Baby swing	Weight chart
TV set	A silver platter
Cookbook	Desk for John
Vase	A nail file
Newspapers	A phone for John
Telephone	A phone for Nancy
Calculator (gift-wrapped)	A diaper and pins
Baby doll	Nancy's Bible
Baby swing	Papers for John
Gift-wrapped jeans (size 5)	Scissors
Bathroom scale	

**Sound Effects: (in order)**

1. An exercise program tape
2. A phone ringing
3. The sound of a baby crying
4. Exercise program tape again
5. The sound of tires screeching and trash cans clanging
6. The sound of the doorbell ringing
7. Exercise program again
8. The phone rings
9. The baby starts to cry
10. The exercise tape again.
11. A knocking on the door
12. Music for the closing song

**Staging Suggestions:**



**The Script:**

**Scene 1: "The 'Proverbial' Job Description"**

*(Grace enters with her baby, a baby doll, not a real one. She puts the baby in the baby swing and winds up the swing. She walks over to the TV, which is at the edge of the stage, so that when she faces the TV, Grace is facing the audience. She turns on an exercise show and begins to do the exercises. We hear the*

**SOUND OF THE EXERCISE PROGRAM**

*(Grace is wearing a sweat-suit and looks a bit overweight in them.)*

**Grace:** *(Speaking while she exercises)*  
Skip your lunch or skit your dinner,  
You'll either die or you'll get thinner!  
One, two, three, four...

*(She stops abruptly.)*

Oh! I haven't weighed in yet today.

*(She hurries over to the scale; her face drops in disappointment.)*

One quarter of a pound less.

Very good, Grace at this rate you'll be the thinnest grandma in town...in twenty years!

*(She runs over and records her weight on the weight chart.)*

## THE SOUND OF A PHONE RINGING

**Grace:** *(She picks up the phone.)* Hello.

*(John sits at the far stage right. Clearly away from Grace and the home-scene. He sits at a desk, shuffling papers. He is on the phone with Grace. If you have access to spotlights, it would be very effective to bring a spotlight up on him at this time.)*

**John:** Hi Honey. How are you doing?

**Grace:** *(Grace approaches the TV and*

## THE SOUND OF THE EXERCISE PROGRAM GOES OFF

Oh, fine. I've lost a quarter pound John; isn't that just great? A quarter of a pound!

**John:** That's great, honey.

**Grace:** What's on your mind, John? Did you miss me?

**John:** *(hesitating)* Well...yes...I...ah....Did you happen to notice that I left a few newspapers by the door this morning?

*(Grace looks around and spies them with a gift-wrapped package on top of them.)*

**Grace:** A few! John there's a whole stack by the door.  
What are they for?

**John:** Well....ah....a few of the guys were talking here at the office, and well...they were saying that their wives...well...they, uh....

**Grace:** John! Do you want me to dress up in these newspapers? Really!  
Don't you think that's a little weird?

**John:** No! No, that's not what I want you to do. Their wives cut out coupons and save tons of money. Bill's wife saved twenty-five dollars during the month of May just by spending a few hours every day going through the newspapers.

**Grace:** A few hours! John...I barely have time to...

**John:** Gracie, just calm down. I bought you a little present to go along with the newspapers. Why don't you open it?

**Grace:** Oh John, *(satirically)* The newspapers are touching enough! How sweet of you. *(She puts the phone down and opens the gift.)* A calculator! *(Picking up the phone.)* A calculator? John, what's this for?

**John:** The guys say their wives have really been able to cut down on the food bills when they take those to the store with them. I just thought that you might want to do everything you can to be thrifty.

**Grace:** *(aside)* Thrifty? How much did this calculator cost?

**John:** What honey?

**Grace:** *(flustered)* Oh, I just hope it doesn't get lost!

**John:** Well, anyway...I know how much you want to be the wife of Proverbs 31; and I want to be that husband who sits at the gate and whose heart does not worry, but trusts in his wife. Can I count on you Gracie?

### THE SOUND OF A BABY CRYING

**Grace:** I have to go, John. The baby needs me.

**John:** I love you honey; you perfect little wife, you. Have a nice day!

**Grace:**  
*(She hangs up the phone and sighs. She walks over to the newspapers and sighs again. All the while, the baby is crying.)*

I don't believe this! When am I going to find time to sort through all these newspapers? Perfect wife! Who wrote that description in Proverbs anyway? I hate calculators! Come on, Johnny, let Mommy exercise.  
*(She cranks up the baby swing, and the...)*

### SOUND OF THE BABY CRYING STOPS

*(Grace approaches the TV and...)*

### THE SOUND OF THE EXERCISE PROGRAM TURNS UP AGAIN

## Scene 2: “The Mother-In-Law From the Black Lagoon”

*(Grace is exercising again, and we hear...)*

### THE SOUND OF TIRES SCREECHING AND TRASH CANS CLANGING

*(Grace freezes, and stares out at the audience.)*

**Grace:** Marion!

*(Grace quickly opens the cookbook to a particular page, moves the vase over to the other side of the room, and tidies up the clutter. She explains to little Johnny in the swing.)*

Your Grandmother is coming over; aren't you excited?  
*(To herself.)* She's coming over to borrow the silver platter. I forgot!

### THE DOORBELL RINGS

**Marion:**

*(Barging into the room, ignoring Grace, and heading straight for little Johnny. She picks him up, and checks him over.)*

Hello my little sweetie.  
Is your mommy taking good care of you?

**Grace:** I'm just fine, Marion. How are you?

**Marion:** *(turning to face Grace, as though she is surprised that she is there)*  
Oh, hello Gracie, dear. Johnny feels wet to me.

**Grace:** *(a bit catty)* Well, we have a motto around here, “Finders Changers.”  
*(Marion ignores Grace and hands Johnny to her.)*  
So, you came over to get the platter. I have it right here.  
*(She puts Johnny back into the swing, and gets the platter.)*

**Marion:** *(strolling over to the cookbook.)* Oh, I see you are going to prepare Veal Fettachinni.  
Have I told you that's John's favorite?

**Grace:** *(coolly)* Oh, really? *(insistently)* Here's the platter, Marion.  
I know you have a million stops to make. The morning is wasting away, isn't it?

**Marion:** *(running her finger along the furniture)* Oh, I see you've dusted.  
Have I ever shared with you that John can't relax in a messy house?  
*(She notices the vase.)* Oh, Gracie, dear. I am so glad you moved that vase over to the other side of the room. It just looked awful over there.  
*(She points to where the vase was before Grace moved it.)*

**Grace:** *(ushering her out quickly)* I'm so sorry you have to be leaving Marion; come back when you can't stay as long....I mean longer. *(Marion starts to exit.)*

**Marion:** *(Staring at Grace)* How long have you owned that sweat-suit, dear?

**Grace:** About three months. Why?

**Marion:** It's just not your color.

**Grace:** Thanks. I'll remember that. *(She ushers Marion out, then closes the door.)* I will never live up to that woman's expectations. I don't know why I even try. *(She replaces the vase and puts away the cookbook.)*

*(mimicking Marion)* It's John's favorite. He doesn't like a messy house. It's not my color! Why can't she just keep her opinions to herself? I try to be the perfect daughter-in-law, but it's so hard with a person like her.

*(She reaches to turn up the...*

## **SOUND AGAIN OF THE EXERCISE PROGRAM**

*...and starts exercising. A few second later...)*

## **THE PHONE RINGS**

### **Scene 3: "The Land of the Spiritual Giant"**

*(Grace walks over to the TV and...)*

## **URNS DOWN THE EXERCISE PROGRAM**

*(Grace walks over to the phone. The spotlight comes up on Nancy who is seated at the far stage left of the playing area, dressed in her finery, with her hair done perfectly. She has a Bible open on her lap.)*

**Grace:** *(picking up the phone)* Hello.

**Nancy:** *(while filing her nails)* Hi Grace. How are you?

**Grace:** Oh, hi Nance. I'm fine...I mean, no! I'm not fine. John's mother was just here, and I've decided that I'm going to ask God if I can be assigned to the other side of heaven from her because I just couldn't spend an eternity with that woman.

**Nancy:** Now, Gracie....

**Grace:** Don't call me Gracie. She calls me Gracie.

**Nancy:** Okay, Grace. You know that you should not have that attitude toward a fellow Christian. Why, right here in First John 4:7 and 8 it says,

*“Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and everyone who loves is born of God, and knows God. He who does not love, does not know God for God is love.”*

Now, you don’t want anyone to say you don’t love God, do you?

**Grace:** No.

**Nancy:** Okay, then you must ask God to give you the ability to love your mother-in-law through the power of the Holy Spirit, Okay?

**Grace:** *(convicted)* Okay. You’re right. I shouldn’t think those evil thoughts about Marion; after all, she is John’s mother.

**Nancy:** Right; I knew you’d see it my way.

**Grace:** Oh, Nancy. I just can’t think of scriptures as fast as you can. I want to be a good Christian, but I’m just not very spiritual.

**Nancy:** Well, it’s never too late to start. You’ve got to read God’s word every day, Grace. The Psalmist says in Psalm 119, verse 11:

*“Thy Word have I hidden in my heart that I might not sin against Thee.”*

**Grace:** See, there you go again. You always have just the right thing to say. I wish I knew the Bible that well.

## **THE BABY STARTS TO CRY**

*(The rest of the conversation is carried out with Grace holding the phone receiver under her chin with her shoulder, while she changes the baby’s diaper. She speaks with the pins in her mouth.)*

Oh...excuse me. Johnny is wet. Let me change him. Go ahead.

**Nancy:** Okay, you sound like you need some cheering up. What do you say about lunch today? We can go shopping in the afternoon after we have lunch at that darling new restaurant downtown: the “Choo Choo.” What do you say?

**Grace:** The “Choo Choo”? Isn’t that kind of expensive?

**Nancy:** Well, it’s a little steep; but, oh...come on....let’s splurge!

**Grace:** I’m sorry, Nance. I really don’t have the money. Just this morning John called and told me that I should cut out coupons to save money. He even gave me a calculator!

**Nancy:** Okay, well at least we can go shopping. They're having their end of the month sale at the Sassy Lady. I really need some silver pumps to go with my new black jumpsuit.

**Grace:** *(still struggling with Johnny diaper)* I'd really love to, Nancy, honest I would, but....

**Nancy:** But what, dear?

**Grace:** Well...Johnny's been kinda' fussy this morning, and I have to be home for Mary when she gets out of school at 12:30. I'd really love to go shopping, though. Maybe some other time; besides, financially...

**Nancy:** *(piously)* Okay, dear. Remember James 1:2:

*"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials."*

You'll have money and free time some day, Gracie...I mean, Grace. Really, you will.

**Grace:** Sure. Maybe some other time.

**Nancy:** Okay then. Bye-bye. God bless you.

**Grace:** *(clearly depressed and mimicking Nancy)* God bless you!  
*(She puts Johnny back into the swing, winds it up and sadly winds it.)*

## **SOUND OF THE EXERCISE TAPE BACK UP**

Am I ever going to have free time? I'm going to be having kids forever. Oh well. At least I can work on my weight. *(She exercises wildly.)*

I sure wish I knew the Bible like Nancy does. She has a verse for everything! I'll bet she never gets depressed. I wish I could be in total control like that.

*(She counts as she exercises: )* One...two...three...four.

## **Scene 4: "The Size Five Nightmare"**

*(Grace is exercising, she stops when she hears a...)*

## **KNOCK ON THE DOOR**

*(She goes to the pretend door, and opens it. Sally bursts into the room, carrying a gift. Her thin, model-like figure makes a sharp contrast to Grace's figure.)*

**Grace:** Hi Sally! What brings you by here?

**Sally:** I missed your birthday, so I thought I'd bring you your present today. I knew you needed some encouragement, with you working on your weight and all.

**Grace:** Well, I do need some encouragement, but not just about my weight.



*(She gets down on all fours and throws her leg up in the air trying to do a thigh pull. She is barely able to lift her leg and is obviously doing the exercise all wrong.)*

**Sally:** Really? What's wrong?

**Grace:** Well...I just feel like I can't do anything right, that's all. I just...

**Sally:** I can tell you right now that you aren't doing those thigh pulls right. Look.

*(Sally gets on all fours and does an amazing thigh pull almost straight up over her head. Grace is shocked! )*

See, that's how you get the most out of your exercise.

**Grace:** *(continues her very meager attempt at thigh pulls.)*  
Thanks. I'll try harder.

**Sally:** *(Cheerfully)* So, why are you so upset?

**Grace:** I'm not thrifty enough to suit John; my mother-in-law thinks I look awful in this color; I'll never have money or free time like Nancy does, and to top it all off: I'll never be able to rattle off scripture like she can!

**Sally:** *(trying to be compassionate)* I know you're not perfect, but you're really losing weight!

**Grace:** Yeah, I've lost a whole quarter of a pound. Great, huh?

**Sally:** *(trying to change the mood)* Open your present. That will cheer you up.

**Grace:** *(She opens the present.)* This is so nice of you, Sally, thanks so....

*(She pauses as she pulls out a pair of size five jeans. She holds them up in front of her body. They obviously would never fit her.)*

Jeans?

**Sally:** Don't you love them? I thought they were just super looking. I tried them on, and I knew you just had to have them! Aren't they the sweetest?" *(Grace is obviously upset.)* What's the matter?

**Grace:** They fit you, not me! I'm not a size seven!

**Sally:** Size five, Grace. I'm a size five.

**Grace:** Okay then...a size five. I'll be dead for two years before I'm a size five!  
*(She folds up the jeans and puts them back in the bag.)*  
Here, you can use them more than I can.

**Sally:** *(Giving the jeans back to Grace who tries to give them to Sally)*  
No. You keep them. They could be your reward for losing weight.  
*(She puts her arm around Grace and motions toward the audience.)*  
You can put them in that "Someday, I'll wear that again" section of my closet.

**Grace:** That "is" my closet. *(They exchange glances. She hands Sally the jeans.)*  
Thanks, but you keep these. If I ever get to a size five, I'll call you.

**Sally:** *(Handing the jeans back to Grace.)* Don be silly. You'll make it.  
Have confidence in yourself, Grace. *(She bounds out the door.)* Bye.

### Scene 5: "The Collapse"

**Grace:** *(Staring in the direction of the door)* I'll never look that good.  
Never in a million years. Why even try? *(She turns off the TV)*  
What's the use? *(becoming tearful)* Only a quarter pound today.  
I'll be dieting for the rest of my life at this rate!

*(She walks over to the newspapers and takes one off the stack. She gets some scissors and starts to look through the newspapers.)*

Maybe I can make John happy and find some coupons.  
No, I should cook veal fettuccini, so he can tell his mom that I made his favorite  
dinner; then she'll think that I'm the perfect little wife.  
*(She sits in a chair and crumples up the newspaper in her lap.)*

Who am I trying to kid? I'll never be the perfect wife, or the perfect daughter-in-law,  
or the perfect friend with time and money, or the perfect size five for that matter. I'll  
just never be any good!

*(Grace sinks back in the chair and starts to cry bitterly. She muffles her crying with the newspapers.)*

### MUSIC BEGINS FOR AN APPROPRIATE SONG

*(Grace sits in the chair crying softly during the first half of this song, then she sits still, just thinking. After the song, Grace exits the stage.)*

**Recommended song:** "All I Ever Have To Be Is What You've Made Me" by Amy Grant, or any  
song of your choice that emphasizes who we are in Christ. Do not have someone sing the song.  
This steals the focus off of grace. We must only hear the song and keep our eyes on grace.

## Discussion Questions To Follow The Skit “Amazing Grace”

1. What were some of the areas in Grace’s life in which she compared herself with others or tried to live up to some else’s expectations.
2. When we compare ourselves with others, what does that do to our joy?
3. List some of the areas in your life where you find your joy being squeezed out by comparing yourself to the expectations of others?
4. Why are we particularly vulnerable to Satan’s attacks when we compare ourselves to others?
5. Look up these verses and discuss how they give us a strategy to combat Satan in this area of our lives?
  - a. 2 Corinthians 10: 12
  - b. Romans 8: 1
  - c. Colossians 3: 1-2
6. Close your discussion in a circle of prayer, and ask God to restore your joy in Him.