



*Written by
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“Family Matters”

Scripture: Deut. 6: 1-9

Dramatic Category: Skermon” (*The pastor plays a narrative role.*)

Topic: Family ministry happens all day long.

Performance Time: 8 minutes (*Designed to be dispersed into the message.*)

Number of Players: 12 players (*4 men, 7 women, 1 child*)

Objective:

Family ministry opportunities have no limits of time or space. All of the day’s events from morning until evening offer places and times for parents to teach the word of God to their children by example.

Synopsis:

This “Skermon” begins with a voice-over reading of Deut. 6:1-9 while four spotlights come up at alternating times, each spot shows a family scene in a still-life, frozen pose: A “tableau.”

After the reading, all four scenes remain frozen. The pastor takes the stage and presents the introduction to his sermon on “Family Matters” greatly to God. On the pastor’s cue, he steps aside and the first scene comes to life; in it we are reminded that God is with us always, especially in scary situations.

The pastor expounds on that point, then introduces the next scene, which reminds us that God expects us to have integrity as believers. The pastor expounds on that point, then introduces the next scene, which illustrates that bedtime is a good time to remind children who God is.

After expounding on that point, the pastor introduces the final scene, which provides an example of the calm that only God can bring into our lives. After each scene the actors leave the stage, until finally the Pastor is alone on the stage to conclude his sermon.

Cast:

(Scene 1: "Sit In The House")

Drew: A compassionate Dad
Nancy: A concerned Mother
Ashley: A persecuted pre-teen

(Scene 2: "Walk By The Way")

Lori: A badgered Mother
Amy: A fashion-crazed teenage girl
Stacy: A taller, fashion-crazed teenage girl

(Scene 3: "Lie Down")

Chris: A Dad who is wise to his little daughter
Leah: A five-year-old who wants a story!

(Scene 4: "Rise Up")

Bebe: A Mom, who has lost her purse
Mike: A Dad, who can't find his keys
Erin: A teenage daughter, looking for a sweater
Josh: A teenage son, who is late for an appointment

Props:

(Scene 1)

Drew reads a newspaper
Nancy is sewing a hem on Ashley's dress

(Scene 2)

2 formal dresses with tags on them for the girls to argue about

(Scene 3)

A small children's book hidden in Leah's P.J.'s
A glass of water hidden in Chris' bathrobe

(Scene 4)

Briefcase for Mike
Coat for Bebe
Books for Josh
Purse for Erin

Sound Effect:

Make a voice-over reading of the Duet. 6:1-9 passage, then play it during the tableaux, or read it "live" over the microphone as the light pools come up.

LIGHTING NOTE:

Isolate four spots on stage in light pools if possible.

		X X (Scene 3)	
X X X (Scene 1)			XXXX (Scene 4)
	X X X (Scene 2)		

Lighting notes for the voice-over of Duet. 6:1-9 with family Tableaus:

NOTE: A "Tableau" is a still-life freeze. The actors do not move.

Spot #1: "Sit In House"

(Tableau of Drew, Nancy, and Ashley at home)

1. "Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the Lord your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess."
2. "That you may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged."

Off #1**On Spot #2: "Walk By Way"**

(Tableau of Lori, Amy, and Stacy at the Mall)

3. "Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you--a land flowing with milk and honey."
4. "Hear O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one!"

Off #2**On Spot #3: "Lie Down"**

(Tableau of Chris and Leah at bedtime)

5. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength."
6. "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart."
7. "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up."

Off #3:

On Spot #4: "Rise Up"

(Tableau of Bebe, Mike, Josh, and Erin frantically searching.)

8. "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes."
9. "You shall write them on the door posts of your house and on your gates."

Off Spot #4

Light up on the pastor:

Pastor: Sermon Introduction of "Family Matters" to God.

The Script:

(The pastor moves to the outskirts of Scene 1. On his cue, the lights come up and the action begins. He steps out of the light.)

Lights up on: Spot #1: "Sit In Your House"

Ashley: I don't see why we can't just move.

Drew: Moving is not an option, Ashley. You're just going to have to beat this thing.

Nancy: Have you done everything you can to stay away from these girls?

Ashley: Yes, but they're in my classes all day long. They make fun of me, Mom. They call me names, and I can't stand it anymore. I can't go back there. I want to switch schools or switch towns.

Nancy: We can't do that; you're just going to have to confront those girls.

Ashley: I can't. It's just me against all of those....those angry faces.

Drew: Wrong.

Ashley: Wrong? What do you mean, wrong?

Drew: Wrong. That's all. You're wrong. It's not just you up against all those girls.

Ashley: It's not?

Drew: No. You have the Holy Spirit of God living inside of you, and that's a pretty impressive army standing at your side, my dear.

Ashley: I do? I do, huh.

Drew: Sure. Maybe we should pray about this problem, and ask God to help us solve it. If I remember right, He specializes in kids standing up to bullies, something about a kid named David who saw to it that a giant got stoned.

Nancy: He's right. This isn't new territory for God.

Drew: Let's pray

(Freeze into a closing tableau. The pastor enters the scene and comments on their scene. A sermon slide that reads "Sit In Your House" should go up.)

Off Spot #1

(The players in this scene exit in the dark while the attention is on the pastor.)

(The pastor moves to the outskirts of Scene 2. On his cue, the lights come up and the action begins. He steps out of the light.)

On Spot #2: "Walk By Way"

Lori: I've heard all I need to hear of this girls. I can't spend more than 200 dollars. That's bad enough, now let's settle this.

Amy: I only spent 80 dollars, Mom. I don't see why I can't keep my 20 dollars change for shoes. It's only fair. 100 for me and 100 for Stacy.

Stacy: Mom, this is the only dress that's long enough. *(To Amy)* I'm sorry it's not on sale. I need your twenty dollars. It's not my fault that I'm tall.

Lori: Well it's not my fault either. Blame your father. You already have shoes that match this dress. You don't need new ones. *(General chaos & argument ensues)*

Lori: Stop it, both of you!

Amy: This is the first formal event our youth group has ever had, and I want to look just perfect.

Lori: Youth group, huh?

Amy: Uh huh.

Lori: At church, huh?

Amy: Uh huh.

Lori: Where you learn about God.

Amy: Uh huh.

Lori: And how to live the Christian life filled with generosity, and sacrifice.

Amy: Well, yeah....

Lori: Is that where they teach you to put your money where your mouth is?

(Freeze into a closing tableau. The pastor enters the scene and comments on their scene. A sermon slide that reads "Walk By The Way" should go up.)

Off Spot #2

(The players in this scene exit in the dark while the attention is on the pastor.)

(The pastor moves to the outskirts of Scene 3. On his cue, the lights come up and the action begins. He steps out of the light.)

On Spot #3: "Lie Down"

Chris: Come on Leah; it's time for bed. *(Taking her hand)*

Leah: I can't; I have to go to the bathroom.

Chris: You just went to the bathroom. You can't go again, that's not possible. Come on, up to bed.

Leah: I need a drink of water.

Chris: *(pulling a drink of water out of his bathrobe pocket)*
Ha! I gotcha' there, missy. Here's your water.

Leah: I'm scared.

Chris: Scared? Scared of what?

Leah: Monsters. They're under my bed.

Chris: There's no monsters under your bed. I killed 'em all. Now, let's go.

Leah: I want a story.

Chris: I don't have a story.

Leah: *(Pulling a story book out from under her PJ's.)* Ha! I gotcha' there, mister. Here's your book!

Chris: A book? You do have a book. What is this? *(He sits down on the step and snuggles his little girl close by.)* Moses parts the Red Sea. Hey, this is a good one. This guy was sacred, too, but not of monsters....he was concerned about chariots...and a river that got in his way. Listen to this.

(Freeze into a closing tableau. The pastor enters the scene and comments on their scene. A sermon slide that reads "When You Rise UP" should go up.)

Off Spot #3

(The players in this scene exit in the dark while the attention is on the pastor.)

(The pastor moves to the outskirts of Scene 4. On his cue, the lights come up and the action begins. He steps out of the light)

On Spot #4: "Rise Up"

(The Parker family is getting ready for the day; each one is frantic about something.)

Bebe: *(Looking for her purse)* Has anybody seen my purse?

Mike: Are my keys in your purse?

Bebe: Did you find my purse?

Mike: No, I can't find my keys!

Erin: Mom, did you wash my pink sweater?

Bebe: Yes, it's in the dryer.

Erin: The dryer? You put my sweater in the dryer?

Josh: I don't care who's the driver? I've got to be there at 8:00.

Erin: Not driver? Dryer, my sweater is in the dryer!

Mike: We're not going anywhere until I find my keys.

Bebe: *(To Erin)* Are you starting to wheeze?

Erin: No, but without my sweater, I'm going to freeze!

(Chaos ensues until eventually they all collide in the middle and crash into Mike, who then stops the action.)

Mike: All right stop! Everybody calm down.
I think we should pray.

(The family agrees, and they slowly gather around Mike.)

Dear Lord:
Please be with this family today.
We need you.....

(Freeze into a closing tableau. The Pastor enters the scene and comments on their scene. A sermon slide that reads “When You Rise Up” should go up.)

Off Spot #4

(The players in this scene exit in the dark while the attention is on the pastor.)

(The pastor moves to the center of the stage and completes his sermon.)