

## A PLACE TO BELONG

by CAROLYN WILLIFORD

**GENRE:** Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** To raise questions and begin discussion on generational differences; to pose the questions: How do I identify? Can we exist together?

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** Scene opens with William, Sharon, and Jared all on stage, comfortably seated or standing as if taking a break to think over an issue. After each character speaks-and while others are speaking-he or she freezes in a position that reflects his or her feelings and attitude.

**TIME:** Over 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 3

**TOPIC:** Christian Living

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Ephesians 3:20-21

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Easter

**SUGGESTED USE:** Easter

**CHARACTERS:**

William-Age 60+; he feels hurt and rejected  
Sharon-Age 40; she is just this side of frantic  
Jared-Age 24; he is eager and ambitious

**PROPS:** Chairs, if desired

**COSTUMES:** Contemporary dress, appropriate to character

**SOUND:** Three wireless mics

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** None specified

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**WILLIAM:** (Sighs heavily, then:) I just don't know how much more of this I can stand. All these unnecessary changes. Things were fine the way they were. Why can't anything just stay the same?

**SHARON:** (Hassled) Honestly. What a week. I've rushed my kids to swim meets, baseball practices, art classes. The truth is-like or not-this generation of kids is used to big events, exciting programs. So when it comes to church, it's just got to compete. Church like I knew it won't cut it. Things had better be pretty different for today's kids ...

**JARED:**(Eagerly, holding his energy in check) I did it. My friends were skeptical, but I got the job I really wanted. And now I can't wait to make changes. I've got so many ideas on how to improve our marketing strategy. And you know, I think we need to push toward the future. Yeah. I intend to make a real difference at work ...

**WILLIAM:** Work. Ha. I gave that company the best years of my life. And we were successful, too. Tripled sales while I was there. But now? Not good enough for 'em. So they're changing everything. And this computer stuff ... new-fangled ideas. They're not content with anything the way we used to be. I guess the regular patterns of our life were ... um ... (struggles for right word) ... familiar. Secure. And that was enough for us. Just work and family.

**JARED:** Marriage? Kids? Oh no ... not yet. My goals mean career first. But that doesn't mean I don't want friends. Or a group where I belong. You know, that's what I'm looking for in a church. I want a place that accepts me where I am now. Just between you and me, I think churches cater more to families. But they need to make room for singles like me. If today's church is going to reach my generation, that's what they'd better do.

**SHARON:** Speaking of churches ... Sunday mornings when I was a kid were pure torture. It was everything that it shouldn't be for children. I can remember these pathetic opening exercises-they called it that, like we were going to do jumping jacks or something. I wish. And after this boring Sunday school class was boring church. It was always the same thing. Every Sunday. Over and over again!

**WILLIAM:** How I wish just one thing ... just one thing could stay the same. And the changes at church, well, they hurt the most. Take last Sunday. We sang a ... a chorus, they call it. Never heard the tune before. Didn't know the words. Can't tell you how embarrassing that was. Been going to church all my life and I had to stand there while my own church sang something I didn't even know. Tell me, why can't we just sing good, old-fashioned hymns? Everyone knows the words to those old songs. (Shaking his head) But these new choruses ...