

## ANSWERING THE CALL

by TIM BASS

**GENRE:** Comedy

**SYNOPSIS:** Tom struggles to find “quiet time” with the Lord.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** Allow plenty of rehearsal time to ensure the timing of the audio cues meshes with the live dialogue.

**TIME:** Under 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 1

**TOPIC:** Listening, Priorities

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Matthew 6:6

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Sermon Illustration, Intro

**CHARACTERS:**

TOM

**PROPS:** Bible, cell phone

**COSTUMES:** Contemporary

**SOUND:** One wireless mic if desired; prerecorded SFX (cell phone ringing, doorbell, home phone ringing, Tom's “prayer” lines)

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** A living room

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*Lights up on TOM, sitting on sofa. His Bible is open in front of him. Unless specified, all dialogue is prerecorded; we are hearing TOM'S thoughts.*

**TOM:** *(Recorded)* Okay, Lord, here I am. I told you I'd make time this week to spend with you. Sorry about last time. Things just got crazy. And I had no idea that the dog was gonna do that on the carpet! There was no way I could have left that until Sally got home. Just sittin' there. She would have killed me! Anyway, here I am. Where do we start? I guess I'll read a bit of Scripture and then have some prayer time. Let's see... Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus...

*FX: Home phone ringing. TOM pops his head toward the sound.*

Oh! Maybe I should get that! It could be Sally saying she'll be late. No, no, she'd call my cell. Oh, I know who it is! Murray. Gotta be Murray. Wants me in on that land deal. I better get it.

*As he stands the phone stops ringing.*

Ah. Well. Okay then. Guess he'll call back. *(He sits.)* Where were we, Lord? Oh, right. Scripture. I was looking for Scripture. You know what? Maybe I should pray first. That'll help. Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the *(FX: DOORBELL)*... doorbell? Who in the world? Hang on, Lord. Be right back with ya!

*He stands and exits.*

**OFFSTAGE VOICE:** Good afternoon.

**TOM OFFSTAGE:** Hey.

**VOICE:** Are you the man of the house?

**TOM:** I don't know, you'd have to ask my wife.

**VOICE:** Very funny. I'd like, if I may, to introduce you to a new and exciting new magazine...

**TOM:** Look, I don't mean to be rude, but I'm in the middle of something. Sorry.

**VOICE:** I understand. Just let me show you the...

*FX: Slamming door. TOM enters and sits.*

**TOM:** *(Recorded)* Sorry 'bout that, God. Things can get crazy around here. Know what I mean? I do want to thank you for this day and the chance to come before you and answer *(FX: Cell phone.)*...my cell. Hold that thought, Lord! *(He pulls his phone from his pocket. He speaks the following lines "live.")*