

BURNING COALS GIFT SHOP

by JOHN COSPER

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: A commercial for a gift service that will “heap burning coals” on your enemy’s head by sending them a thoughtful gift.

DIRECTOR’S TIP: This scene should be very over-the-top and cheesy. It can also work well as a video, if desired.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 7

TOPIC: Friendship

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Romans 12:20

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon illustration, “Just for fun” skit for special events, Sermon starter

CHARACTERS:

HUGO—a bully

KEITH—a helpless kid

TARA—a teen

BOB—a businessman

HAROLD—a commercial spokesman

JIM—Bob’s boss

CRISSY—a preppy cheerleader

PROPS: Money, cell phone, bouquet, teddy bear, baseball bat with a bow

COSTUMES: Stereotypical dress for each of these modern characters

SOUND: Seven wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Unspecified

Drama Ministry

service@DramaMinistry.com
www.DramaMinistry.com
ISSN 1084-5917

Drama Ministry is a division of
Belden Worship Resources
www.beldenworshipresources.com

Publisher: **Regi Stone**

Executive Editor: **Kimberlee Crisafulli** / Assistant Editor: **Scott Crain**

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BURNING COALS GIFT SHOP *by John Cospers*

KEITH enters. HUGO runs up to him.

HUGO: Give me your lunch money, dork!

KEITH gives him the money.

Thanks a lot, dork!

HUGO runs off.

KEITH: Ooh! That stupid bully took my lunch money again!

TARA walks on stage on her cell phone.

TARA: I can't believe it! That stupid cheerleader Crissy stole my boyfriend again! What is she doing? Am I her test pilot for all the hot guys? Oh, she makes me mad!

BOB enters.

BOB: I worked myself to death for that company. And for what? For that stupid boss of mine to deny me a raise again!

HAROLD enters.

HAROLD: Bullies giving you problems? Cheerleaders stealing your love life? Bosses keeping you from getting ahead? Do you feel like you want revenge?

BOB/TARA/KEITH: Yes!!

HAROLD: Then pick up that phone and call Burning Coals Gift Service.

BOB: Burning coals? That sounds great.

BOB takes out his phone and mimes a phone call while HAROLD talks.

HAROLD: Oh, it's not what you think. Based on the biblical principle of overcoming evil with good, Burning Coals will respond to that evil person with a thoughtful, personalized gift just for them.

TARA: What good does that do for me?

HAROLD: Just watch!

JIM enters with a bouquet of flowers.