

CHOPPED LIVER

by RENE GUTTERIDGE

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: A father struggles with the fact that his family doesn't seem to notice the sacrifices he makes.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Keep up the pace of the dialogue to simulate the frantic atmosphere of a holiday meal. The pace of this drama should increase up until the point Jim and Chad talk near the end of the script. This is the point that Jim thinks he'll finally have some quality time with a family member, and the slowing of pace will heighten Jim's frustration when his conversation with Chad.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Parenting

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Proverbs 17:6

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service

CHARACTERS:

JIM - an accountant, 40-ish

KATE - his wife, 40-ish

CHAD - typical 12-year-old

PROPS: Breakfast table, skillet for eggs, dinnerware, sheet of paper, apron

COSTUMES: Modern dress, bathrobe

SOUND: Wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A dining room

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KATE enters (In bathrobe) as JIM (In business suit) is serving breakfast.

KATE: *(Groggy)* I'm sooo tired.

JIM: *(Glancing at his watch)* Well, you did get to sleep until nearly eight. I've been up since six. *(Puts a smile on his face)* But nothing makes me happier than to be able to make my family breakfast.

KATE: *(Seeming a little disappointed.)* Eggs?

JIM: Yeeesssss. Did you want something else?

KATE: *(Smiling)* Uh...no...eggs...eggs are great. Thanks, honey. *(Lifts a piece of paper off the table)* Oh, by the way, Chad wrote the neatest thing at school. It's a list of all he's thankful for. I guess it was an English project or something.

JIM: Oh! Cool! Let me see. *(Reading)* I'm thankful for all my friends at school, for my video games, for my baseball team, for going to the movies, for Amber. *(Pause)* Who's Amber?

KATE: *(Smiling)* Sounds like someone special.

JIM: *(Back to reading)* Church, ESPN-that's my boy!-double dip ice cream cones and my mom's chocolate chip cookies. *(JIM stops, flips the page over, flips it back, scans it and looks a little hurt. He's just about to say something when CHAD saunters in.)*

CHAD: Good morning.

KATE: Good morning, dear.

JIM: *(Still holding onto the piece of paper)* Want some eggs?

CHAD: Eggs? Uh, no. Doesn't sound good this morning. I'll just have some toast.

JIM: *(Looking hurt)* Are you sure? Because eggs taste extra special when someone gets up at 6 a.m. to make them.

CHAD: *(Glancing at his mom who shrugs with confusion.)* Yeah. I'm sure.

JIM: So, who's Amber?

CHAD: Just a girl at school. She tutored me in math.

JIM: You're needing some help with math? I can do that. You know, I am an accountant.