

Drama Ministry®

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DIALOGUE

by TIM BASS

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: Two strangers meet at a train station and confront hard questions about God's presence.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Dialogue portrays the Christian who comes on too strong with his evangelism methods, we see an unbeliever using "strong-arm tactics" to get his point across. This reversal of roles can be a great opportunity to develop strong choices in your characters. John, for example, seems to be a take-charge sort of guy, but doesn't necessarily need to be unpleasantly so—perhaps play with the dynamic of a high-pressure used car salesman who keeps changing tactics to keep his "customer" vulnerable. Frank, on the other hand, doesn't have to be weak to be effective; his efforts to politely answer John's questions in the face of such an overwhelming barrage of opinions should provide plenty of natural conflict without having to overdo it.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Faith

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Psalm 14, Psalm 139

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service, Small Group

CHARACTERS:

Frank - a Christian

John - a non-Christian

PROPS: Briefcase, Bible

COSTUMES: Modern dress

SOUND: Two wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Train depot

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Lights up on FRANK. He is a middle-aged man, carrying a briefcase. He appears to be waiting for a bus or a train. He is looking through his Bible as he waits. He checks his watch. JOHN walks up. He checks his watch and glances over at FRANK.

JOHN: Book of the Month Club?

FRANK: Um...sorry?

JOHN: Nothing. You were reading your book there; I was being ironic.

FRANK: Oh. It's, it's not just a book. It's, uh, it's the Bible .

JOHN: I know. Thus the irony. "Book-of-the-Month Club."

FRANK: Right. Okay.

JOHN: Train's late.

FRANK: Yes, it is.

JOHN: So, what...you a religious man? Or you just like a good laugh in the morning?

FRANK: Whaddaya mean?

JOHN: Just wondering if you are a religious man or if you just enjoy a little chuckle on the way to work, reading about talking snakes and prophets coming back from the dead. Sounds like the beginning of a great joke or maybe a Stephen King novel.

FRANK: Actually, I'm a Christian.

JOHN: Christian, right. So, what, you like buy the whole seven-day theory? What a crock. Life as a whole is not here through divine decree, my friend, but through some kind of accident. Life is a kind of fluke that emerged from the laws of nature. No reason. Just the way nature works.

FRANK: Well, the Bible says...

JOHN: Come on. Please. "The Bible says." I would love to believe in some higher power that's out there and who cares for humanity, or for me personally. Would love to think there's someone I can run to when I'm scared to death or in trouble. Can't do it. Especially after all the horrible things that happen to people every day. God, right. I equate nature with God. I mean, if there is a God, I think he's a very remote God. Maybe he created us, but at this point, we're on our own. Nature is God. I mean, if we destroy ourselves tomorrow, the birds will still be singing in the trees. Totally oblivious to all this human tragedy.