

FOR THOSE WHO RUN WITH SCISSORS

by JOHN COSPER

GENRE: Comedy/Light Drama

SYNOPSIS: Running with scissors is the unforgivable sin in this parable about the way Christians look on certain sins as more evil, more offensive than others – forgetting that sin is sin in God’s eyes.

DIRECTOR’S TIP: While the title and the opening monologue are designed to evoke laughter, the tone and message of this drama is very serious. The purpose here is not to condone any particular sin, but to condemn a long-held belief that it’s okay to respond to certain sins with the sin of hate in the form of scorn, derision, and mocking. Sin is sin in the Lord’s eyes, and no sinner is any more or less guilty than another – no matter what their sin might be. (Romans 3:23) Let’s get the logs off our eyes and learn to love our neighbors..all of them.

TIME: 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 3M, 3F

THEME: Sin; Judging Others

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Romans 3:23

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Youth services; sermon illustration

CHARACTERS:

TEACHER

JAMIE, KYLE, SANDRA, MIKE - Students

ALEX - a student who runs with scissors

PROPS: Chalkboard and chalk; book bags; scissors

COSTUMES: Clothing appropriate for high school students and a teacher

SOUND: Six wireless microphones

LIGHTING: Spotlights

SETTING: High school

Drama Ministry

service@DramaMinistry.com
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The teacher appears in a spotlight with a chalk or marker board behind them.

TEACHER: Good morning, children, and welcome to class (*insert a high school name of your choosing*). Each of you was given a rulebook when you enrolled. If you would pull them out, I'd like to go over a few things. If you'll look on page three, you'll see a list of rules and regulations. As you can see, we have a very simple list of rules paired with a very simple discipline policy. First infractions will receive a verbal warning. Second infractions will receive a note home to parents. Third infractions will get you a trip to the principal's office. This policy covers every rule in the book except for one: Rule number 13, "Do not run with scissors." This is the worst thing that any human being can possibly do. I repeat, anyone who runs with scissors is a scum-sucking, bottom-dwelling, low life excuse for a human being, and anyone caught running with scissors will be suspended, expelled, and ostracized for the rest of their lives. Which brings us to our first vocabulary lesson of the year. (*writes on the board*) Ostracize. (*spells it out*) O-S-T-R-A-C-I-Z-E. Verb. Definition: a thing normal, decent people do to people who run with scissors.

Fade to black. Spotlight on JAMIE and KYLE.

JAMIE: Hey, did you hear about Alex?

KYLE: What about him?

JAMIE: He runs with scissors.

KYLE: No way.

JAMIE: It's true! My neighbor Kenny said he saw him do it.

KYLE: Alex runs with scissors?

JAMIE: Come on, you can't be surprised. He enjoys cutting shapes in art class, and he's on the track team. It makes perfect sense.

KYLE: Wow, I never would have dreamed Alex would run with scissors. He seemed so... so normal!

Blackout. Spotlight on SANDRA and MIKE.

SANDRA: I just don't get why people are talking about Alex. So what if he runs with scissors. He's not hurting anyone.

MIKE: You can't run with scissors, Sandra!

SANDRA: Why not?