

GOOD NEIGHBORS

by JOHN COSPER

GENRE: Comedy/Light Drama

SYNOPSIS: The story of two neighbors is told, and how the one never went to Heaven because his Christian neighbor never witnessed to him.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: In this sketch, the Narrator sets the tone for the entire scene. He should be upbeat and lively. A trap here is to have him talk like he's telling a story to preschoolers. A better choice is to have him practice telling the rest of the cast amusing stories from his own life. Have him practice telling the same story several different ways—as a fable with a moral lesson, as a knee-slapping story told to old friends, as pure gossip told at the office water cooler on a Monday morning. Help him cull out which parts of his story-telling techniques were most effective. Then have him apply those techniques to the script at hand.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 3

TOPIC: Witnessing

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 28:19-20

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon Illustration, Evangelistic Sermon

CHARACTERS:

NARRATOR

JIM—a nonbeliever

FRANK—Jim's neighbor, a Christian

PETER THE APOSTLE (voiceover)

PROPS: Two chairs, two remote controls, two spades, two pads of paper, two phones, two books, a boom box

COSTUMES: Casual Dress

SOUND: Three wireless microphones; a song by Third Day; sound effect of a plane crash

LIGHTING: General stage; spotlights if possible

SETTING: Two neighborhood homes

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Two chairs are onstage, one at stage left, the other at stage right. There is a remote control, a spade, a pad of paper, a telephone, and a book beside each chair. A boom box is beside the chair on FRANK's side of the stage. JIM and FRANK walk onstage from opposite sides.

NARRATOR: Once upon a time there were two men named Jim and Frank.

JIM: Morning, Frank.

FRANK: Oh, hey, Jim!

NARRATOR: Jim and Frank were neighbors, and they liked each other pretty well. Every Sunday, they were both up early.

JIM: Hey! You wanna go get some coffee?

FRANK: Sorry, Jim. Gotta get to church.

JIM: All right, have a good one!

NARRATOR: Frank was a Christian. Jim was not. But they never held it against one another. After church, Jim and Frank would both head outside to work in the garden.

Both men grab their spades.

For Jim it was fun in the dirt. But for Frank, it was his own, quiet, personal communion time with God.

FRANK: Lord, I love being in nature. I love having my hands deep in your creation. I marvel daily at the depth of your—

JIM: Hey, Frank! Roses look great this year, man. Have you seen my azalea?

FRANK: Not now, Jim. I'm meditating.

JIM: Alrighty, pal.

FRANK gets his boom box.

NARRATOR: Sometimes when he was in his meditation time, Frank would turn on some inspirational music, like his favorite band, Third Day.

FRANK presses play. Third Day music plays as FRANK works on the garden. JIM hears it.

JIM: Hey, Frank? Whatcha listening to? Is that Hootie? That sounds like Hootie.