

HOME FOR DINNER

by GINA DETWILER

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: A man comes home for dinner only to find that his family is going out.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Keep the pace driving fast and furious around Charlie, to emphasize the "busyness" of the home and to punctuate the silence at the scene's conclusion.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 5

TOPIC: Parenting, Family

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 10:40-42

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Any

CHARACTERS:

CHARLIE - a hardworking father

SUSAN - an overworked mother

CRISSIE - a "rebellious" teen

DORA and CJ - squabbling children

PROPS: Leftover pizza, briefcase, plate, cup, kitchen stuff

COSTUMES: Modern. Father is dressed for work. Mother is dressed for errands. Teenager has purple hair and looks "alien."

SOUND: Three wireless microphones, two offstage microphones; perhaps a "Brady Bunch" type theme to open

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A kitchen

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CHARLIE enters, exhausted, takes off coat and throws it on a chair. Lays briefcase on kitchen table.

CHARLIE: Honey! I'm home! (*There's no answer.*) I'm home! Susan? Are you there? What's for dinner? (*Sniffs the air. Doesn't smell anything.*) Smells good! I'm starved. Susan!! (*He looks in refrigerator [if there is one onstage]. Two children run by, fighting with each other, ignoring him. They head out the door to the garage.*) Susan!!!!

SUSAN enters, looking frazzled.

SUSAN: I'm coming! Oh, it's you. What are you doing home?

CHARLIE: (*Nonplussed*) I live here.

SUSAN: I'm sorry, honey. I wasn't expecting you. (*Perfunctory kiss on cheek.*) Gotta go! See ya!

She starts to head out the door.

CHARLIE: Wait a minute! Where are you going?

SUSAN: Well, it's Wednesday night, dear. Church night. You remember. I've got a meeting of the Christian Families in Crisis committee. Dora has dance—by the way, you need to pick her up at 7 o'clock, and don't be late or she'll dial 911. She did it to me twice. And Charlie Jr. has baseball practice until 8. But I'll pick him up on the way home.

CHARLIE: I thought Wednesdays were Family Dinner Night around here.

SUSAN: Oh, dear, we haven't done that for months, honey.

CHARLIE: But—what about dinner?

SUSAN: Uh—well, there's some leftover pizza in the fridge. I'll get it for you.

She exits, going offstage for the pizza.

CHARLIE: Susan, wait. I was really looking forward to Family Dinner Night. I mean—I know I've been busy with this big project at work, but it's all done now and I was looking forward to a nice home-cooked meal with my family—

SUSAN: (*Returning with pizza, putting it on a plate on the table*) I'm sorry, honey. Maybe tomorrow night. Oh wait—can't tomorrow. I've got Bunco and Dora has Girl Scouts. Maybe Friday—

DORA (OFFSTAGE): I'm waiting, Mom! I'm going to be late!!!!