

HOOP LESSONS

by JOHN COSPER

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: Parents at a kid's basketball game wonder how their kids learned to treat each other so poorly, not realizing it was their bad example that affected them in the first place.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: One of the comedic strengths of Hoop Lessons is the continually shifting focus the characters have between their conversation and the game they're watching. This also creates one of the greatest challenges of directing the piece, as the back-and-forth shift of focus could be confusing to your audience. The setting isn't exactly the NBA playoffs, a certain amount of energy should still be present in the parents. You may want to have a high energy warm up right before the performance or lead the cast in a group game or silly song—anything to give the heightened emotional 'feel' of a sporting event when your actors take the stage.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 4

TOPIC: Parenting, Family

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon Introductions, Parenting worship or seminar

CHARACTERS:

BOB and HELEN—married couple, parents of a ballplayer
CHERYL and DOUG—another couple with a ballplayer son

PROPS: Bleachers or chairs, camcorders, tripods

COSTUMES: Modern dress

SOUND: Four wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: An elementary school gym

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The setting is an elementary school basketball league game. BOB and HELEN are seated in the bleachers of a gym. BOB is fixing the camcorder.

HELEN: Will you hurry up? They're starting the game.

BOB: I'm almost there. You don't want me to tape over your precious mother's visit, do you?

CHERYL and DOUG enter and find seats in the bleachers near BOB and HELEN.

HELEN: You'd better not! Come on, let's go, Eagles!

CHERYL: Hey, you guys.

HELEN: Hey Cheryl. Hi Doug.

BOB: You guys are running a little late, aren't you?

DOUG: Ah, we had a little trouble with Carson and Katie this morning.

CHERYL: He's starting the game, honey! Get the camera out.

DOUG: All right, all right.

DOUG gets his camera ready as the conversation continues.

BOB: So what were the kids doing today?

CHERYL: Oh, Carson stole all of Katie's Barbie dolls and wouldn't tell her where he hid them. So Katie dumped her Kool-Aid on Carson's Superman bedsheets. Lots of drama.

HELEN: Sounds like a typical morning at our house.

BOB: *(Yells)* Where's your man, Malcolm? Where's your man?

DOUG: You know, it amazes me how our kids are constantly harassing each another.

HELEN: I hear that. Malcolm and Penny are always so mean to each other!

CHERYL: *(Yells)* Carson, wake up!! You gonna let that little kid score on you? You're twice his size, son, so use it!

BOB: I came home one day last week and found both kids with soap in their mouths.

CHERYL: What for?

HELEN: Calling each other names, as usual. *(Yells)* Hey four eyes, you watching the same game I am? That's a foul, you blind zebra!