

## I CAN PRAY ALL BY MYSELF

by FRED ROBERTS

**GENRE:** Comedy/Light Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** Parents are brought up short when their son announces that he doesn't need to go to church with them as they are getting ready to leave on Sunday morning.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** Ann and Charles are in a hurry, getting ready to leave for church. Julian, by contrast, should not be in a hurry at all. He is upset and doesn't understand why his parents don't see things from his point of view. The difference in physicality of Ann and Charles rushing and Julian decidedly not rushing will help add tension to the scene.

**TIME:** Under 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 2M, 1F

**TOPIC:** Worship, Discipleship, Faith

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Mark 12:30-31; Hebrews 10:25

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Sermon starter

**CHARACTERS:**

JULIAN - 12-year-old son of Ann and Charles

ANN - Charles' wife; Julian's mom

CHARLES - Ann's husband; Julian's dad

**PROPS:** A tie for Charles; chairs or a couch to depict living room

**COSTUMES:** All should be dressed in their "Sunday best." Charles needs a button-down shirt.

**SOUND:** Wireless mics if desired

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** Living Room

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*It is Sunday morning and the family is getting ready to go to church. Julian sits with his arms folded. He is obviously upset. He and his mother, Ann, are having a discussion. His father, Charles, walks through the room looking for his tie as he is getting ready for church.*

**CHARLES:** What's wrong with him?

**ANN:** He says he's not going to church today.

**JULIAN:** I didn't say today. I said not ever again. Today, tomorrow, forever.

**CHARLES:** Oh, I see. Forever's a long time. Are you sure?

**JULIAN:** I just don't see the point.

**CHARLES:** The point in what? Going to church?

**JULIAN:** Well, yeah.

**CHARLES:** You think I want to go all the time? Don't you think I work hard all week and would like to sleep in once in a while and catch up on my rest? Huh?

**JULIAN:** Well, why don't you?

**CHARLES:** Because it's Sunday and when it's Sunday, we go to church. Now, what's your problem? Why don't you want to go?

**JULIAN:** Nobody goes anymore. It's not like it used to be.

**CHARLES:** *(To Ann)* Ann, you handle this. I have to find my tie.

*Charles exits to the other room.*

**ANN:** We can talk about this after church. Come on, Julian. Get ready. We don't have time for this.

**JULIAN:** Nobody goes to church anymore, Mom. None of my friends ever go.

**ANN:** Then you need some new friends. Christian friends.

**JULIAN:** They're Christian. They just don't go to church.

**ANN:** Julian, I don't have time for this this morning. You're working my last nerve right now. Let's go.

**JULIAN:** You never listen to me, Mom. I'm serious. I'm not going. I have a right to decide if I want to go or not. You always say to stand up for what I believe. Am I wrong?