

Drama Ministry®

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JOY

by JOY L. MASON

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: What's in a name? When your name is Joy, there is a whole lot more than you may think. A young girl discovers that her name is more than a label, but an entire outlook on life.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Since the sketch revolves around semantics, you should devote some rehearsal time to playing with words. Allow the actor to play around with multiple ways of saying, "I'm Joy." Notice how the sentence differs when saying it as a name vs. a state of being.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 1

TOPIC: Peace

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: John 15:11-12, Romans 15:13

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service, Youth Group

CHARACTERS: Joy — A woman of any age

PROPS: 1) Chair (optional)

COSTUMES: Contemporary clothing, appropriate to character

SOUND: One wireless mike

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Generic stage

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As lights come up, JOY is standing or sitting center stage.

JOY: My name is Joy.

I used to hate it. When I was younger, it was because I could never find anything with my name on it — you know, barrettes, stationery, mugs, things like that. Or people would always sing to me — and songs with my name in them, sung at the top of people's voices, never made me happy.

When I got older, people would make it more personal. "Smile," they'd say to me, "your name is Joy. You can't be sad." It's just my name, I wanted to retort. It has absolutely nothing to do with my mood.

My name is Joy. I used to say it that way — "my name is" — except one day someone asked the question in a different way and I responded, "I'm Joy." And it hit me — what a thing to say. Yeah, it's my name. I've had it all my life, and it's always been more of a nuisance than anything else. But that day, said in that way, I was announcing exquisite happiness. Peace, wonder, giddiness. A smile that simply won't leave your face. I'm Joy, I said, and realized it's more than just a name. It's life.

I'm Joy, I say now, whenever people ask my name, no matter how they ask. Most don't notice the semantics. Some do, though, and for a brief moment there at the beginning of the conversation, there's a pause for a smile ... and I know it's occurred to them it doesn't have to be their name for them to say the same.

..... Lights down.

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