

Drama Ministry®

POINT. CLICK. ACTION!

NAME TAGS

by RENE GUTTERIDGE

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: The scene is a seminar on the power of names. First to arrive is a family of four: The wife, whose name is Quick Tempered; the husband, named Lazy All His Life; and their children, Always in Trouble and Painfully Shy. Waiting for the seminar to begin, they meet a dating couple: Will Never Get Married and Can't Commit to Anything. This hilarious script is a good way to open a discussion on how the names we call each other-even in jest-can affect our attitudes and behavior.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Have lots of fun with this script. The character names and their stereotypes are self-explanatory and should help the actors with character development. To keep the ending a surprise, don't make Woman sugary sweet throughout. She's pleasant, but not sugar-coated.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 7

TOPIC: Christian Living, Family

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Isaiah 43:1-2, Isaiah 62:1-3

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

CHARACTERS:

Quick Tempered - A woman with a quick temper
Lazy All His Life - Her husband
Always in Trouble - Their son
Painfully Shy - Their daughter
Will Never Get Married - A 34-year-old woman
Can't Commit to Anything - Her boyfriend
Woman - The woman running the program

PROPS: 1) Table
2) Name tags
3) Punch bowl and glasses

COSTUMES: Contemporary clothing, appropriate to character

SOUND: Seven wireless mikes

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A meeting room

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WOMAN sits at a name tag table as people make their way into the room. A family of four ENTERS.

WOMAN: Oh, hello there. Why don't you come over here and get a name tag.

QUICK TEMPERED: Why thank you. I'm Quick Tempered. This is my husband, Lazy All His Life, and our two children, Painfully Shy and Always in Trouble.

The boy, ALWAYS IN TROUBLE, begins picking on his sister, PAINFULLY SHY.

QUICK TEMPERED: *(Snapping, losing her temper)* Always in Trouble! Stop that! You know you're not allowed to pick on your sister!

WOMAN hands them all their name tags.

QUICK TEMPERED: *(As they're all putting on their name tags)* Honey, I forgot my purse in the car. Would you mind running back out there to get it?

LAZY ALL HIS LIFE: All the way to the car?

QUICK TEMPERED: Fine! I'll go to the car myself! Can you be any more lazy?! *(She EXITS in a huff.)*

LAZY ALL HIS LIFE: *(To the kids)* Hey, I see a table full of cookies back there. Why don't you two go grab a couple. And maybe get a few for me, too.

ALWAYS IN TROUBLE doesn't hesitate, but PAINFULLY SHY looks to her dad for reassurance.

LAZY ALL HIS LIFE: It's okay, dear. The cookies don't bite you, you bite them.

As the kids are off getting cookies, WILL NEVER GET MARRIED and CAN'T COMMIT TO ANYTHING ENTER and approach LAZY ALL HIS LIFE.

WILL NEVER GET MARRIED: Oh, hi there. We're new here.

LAZY ALL HIS LIFE: Oh, me, too. I'm Lazy All His Life.

WILL NEVER GET MARRIED: Nice to meet you. I'm Will Never Get Married, and this is my boyfriend, Can't Commit to Anything.

LAZY ALL HIS LIFE: Will Never Get Married. That's an interesting name.

WILL NEVER GET MARRIED: Yes, well, I got it from my mother. I'm 34 and she's scared to death she won't have any grandchildren. She's had that fear since I was 5.

QUICK TEMPERED ENTERS with her purse.