

## OFF THE BENCH

by JOHN COSPER

**GENRE:** Comedy/Light Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** A baseball team waits for the “first string” to arrive and refuses to take the field without them – even though they themselves are missing out on the game.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** This was written as an encouragement drama for a self-help ministry. You can use this to advertise such a ministry, or to kick off a sermon about co-dependency and not letting others hold you back from enjoying life.

**TIME:** 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 3M, 1F

**THEME:** Church Life

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Isaiah 40:31

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Sermon illustration, or for self-help, recovery, and support groups

**CHARACTERS:**

CHUCK – Sports announcer

TRICIA – Reporter

ERIC, CARRIE, and SAM – Baseball players in uniform

**PROPS:** Baseball gear

**COSTUMES:** Baseball uniforms and business formal for Chuck and Tricia

**SOUND:** Wireless microphones (optional)

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** A baseball park

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*CHUCK is on the side of the stage.*

**CHUCK:** Good afternoon, sports fans, or should I say, good evening? Chuck Hinkle still here at the ball park, waiting for the big game to start. We were expecting a good one between the visiting Giants and the hometown Sluggers, but for some reason, the Sluggers have not yet taken the field. I'm told our roving reporter, Tricia Banks, is in the Sluggers dugout. Tricia? Maybe you can shed some light on this story.

*TRICIA enters.*

**TRICIA:** Chuck, I'm here in the dugout where the Sluggers are waiting and ready to get the game under way.

**CHUCK:** Tricia, did you say they're ready to play?

**TRICIA:** Well, they're in uniform, and they have all their gloves and bats ready.

**CHUCK:** So what's the hold up?

**TRICIA:** Maybe one of the players can explain that better than I can. Excuse me, can I have a word with you for our television audience?

*ERIC enters.*

**ERIC:** Who, me?

**TRICIA:** Your name, please?

**ERIC:** Uh, Eric. Am I really on TV?

**TRICIA:** Yes you are.

**ERIC:** Hi, Mom!

**TRICIA:** Eric, our audience is very excited to get this game under way.

**ERIC:** We're very excited too. The Giants are tough, but we think that we can pull together and come out on top.

**TRICIA:** Eric, I have to ask you, if you're so eager to play the Giants, why haven't you taken the field?

**ERIC:** Well, we can't take the field yet.

**TRICIA:** Why not? You have your uniforms on. You have your glove.

**ERIC:** I know, but we're waiting for the starters to show up.