

## RUMOR HAS IT

by Rene Gutteridge

**GENRE:** Comedy

**SYNOPSIS:** To illustrate the dangers of gossip and rumors—both to those spreading them and those about whom they are spread.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** The four characters in this scene are high school students, but the lesson here is relevant for all ages. The scene is comic, but the kids should be played straightforward. They are ordinary kids with a tendency toward the dramatic. Use the characterization notes to help the actors make each character unique—their agendas aren't the same, but they share a desire to spread the bad news before they have fully understood the story. As actors exit (except Lisa), encourage them to leave with an urgent need to find someone offstage to whom they will tell the juicy new gossip.

**TIME:** Over 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 4

**TOPIC:** Gossip, Youth

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Proverbs 16:28

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Youth Services, Worship Services

**CHARACTERS:**

Kirk ~ A high school student who starts a rumor about friends

Tammy ~ A busybody high school student who spreads the rumor and adds to it

Jim ~ A high school student who passes along the rumor without checking facts

Lisa ~ A high school student who questions the rumor's validity but gets sucked into it anyway

**PROPS:** none

**COSTUMES:** Contemporary clothing, appropriate to character

**SOUND:** Four wireless mikes

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** Bare stage

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*KIRK ENTERS, alone. After a moment, TAMMY ENTERS, opposite.*

**KIRK:** Hey, TAMMY.

**TAMMY:** Hi, Kirk . How are you?

**KIRK:** Fine. You?

**TAMMY:** Great. So, what's new?

**KIRK:** *(Looking around)* Guess what I heard.

**TAMMY:** *(Wide-eyed)* What?

**KIRK:** I heard that Jennifer said that Ann and Keith are breaking up.

**TAMMY:** No way!

**KIRK:** That's what I heard. *(Checking his watch)* I gotta go do something. I'll catch ya later.

*(He EXITS.)*

**TAMMY:** *(To herself)* Wow. I can't believe that! *(Jim ENTERS.)* JIM!

**JIM:** Hey, Tammy. What's new?

**TAMMY:** Kirk just said that Jennifer is breaking Ann and Keith up!

**JIM:** What? That's impossible! Jennifer is dating Mike.

**TAMMY:** *(Shrugging)* That's what Kirk said. *(Checking watch)* Well, I need to go make a phone call. *(She EXITS.)*

**JIM:** *(As LISA ENTERS)* LISA. I just heard the most horrifying news.

**LISA:** What?

**JIM:** Kirk said Mike and Ann are dating behind Keith and Jennifer's backs!

**LISA:** They can't be! I just saw Keith and Ann together.

**JIM:** I don't know. That's what Kirk said.

*JIM EXITS. LISA stands dumbfounded until TAMMY ENTERS.*

**TAMMY:** LISA! Did you hear the news?!

**LISA:** What Kirk said?