

SHOPPING SPREE

by JOHN COSPER

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: Two parents wonder where their children's foolish money management comes from, not realizing how they've set a bad example.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Shopping Spree is a rapid-fire comedy, so proper timing is absolutely essential. It can also be a little tricky, as a couple of conversations are happening at the same time, with dialogue that practically overlaps. At times an actor's cue will be an unrelated line from the other conversation, so memorization can be a challenge, as there's no "through-line" of logic to follow. The only sure-fire solution is rehearsal, and lots of it. Make sure every actor is thoroughly familiar with their lines and the flow of the scene as a whole, so they'll each be prepared to pick up the slack and keep the scene moving in case someone drops a line.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 4

TOPIC: Parenting, Finances

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 25:14-30

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon Introduction, Financial Seminar

CHARACTERS:

RON and JOYCE—husband and wife

BRIAN—the son

CHRISTINA—the daughter

PROPS: Kitchen table and chairs, mail and bills, BlackBerry phones (four)

COSTUMES: Casual clothes; Best Buy uniform for Brian

SOUND: Four wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A family kitchen

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SHOPPING SPREE *by John Cospers*

A kitchen table is at center. RON and JOYCE are dressed casually on a Saturday, reading the mail. RON is looking at his son's credit card bill.

RON: Is this for real?

JOYCE: I'm afraid so.

RON: Six hundred dollars on one charge? That was for his college needs!

JOYCE: And at his work. I told you, we shouldn't have let him get that job at Best Buy. He's blowing it all on music.

RON: He doesn't have that many CDs. Wait...this was the twenty-eighth. I remember, he told me he was buying an iPod nano.

JOYCE: A what? He has an iPod!

RON: Yes, but this is the new one. Smaller, more colors.

JOYCE: Ron, Brian has school books, meals, and clothing to put on that card, not the latest gadget!

RON: I agree.

JOYCE: Six hundred dollars...no wonder he doesn't have any savings. And Christina is just as bad. Blows her whole American Eagle paycheck in the store. They might as well pay her in clothes!

RON: We taught them better than this. Didn't we?

JOYCE: I know. Where do they get the idea that money grows on trees?

RON's BlackBerry rings. RON looks at the display screen.

RON: It's Brian.

JOYCE: This is your chance, Ron. Say something.

RON: I will. *(Picks up the phone)* Hello?

BRIAN enters on the side of the stage, using a BlackBerry. He is wearing his work uniform.

JOYCE's BlackBerry rings.

BRIAN: Hey, Dad! It's me.

RON: Brian! Just the man I wanted to talk to. What's this six hundred dollars on your credit card?