

STARCH OF THE SPIRIT

by JOHN COSPER

GENRE: Comedy/Light Drama

SYNOPSIS: A well-kept dress shares its secret for staying fresh and new with a wrinkled blouse and shirt; an illustration about Christian living.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: The script can be modified to include fewer, more, or just different virtues other than the ones listed.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 4

TOPIC: Christian Living, Fruit of the Spirit

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 6:33

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon Illustration

CHARACTERS:

- A Shirt (2 people)
- A Blouse (2 people)
- A Dress (2 people)
- A Sock Puppet

PROPS: Four spray bottles labeled Faith, Sweetness, Caring, and Prayer

COSTUMES: A shirt, a blouse, a dress, all with holes or openings in the middle

SOUND: Three to four wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A laundry room

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A table is center stage. When the lights come up, BLOUSE, SHIRT, and DRESS are all on stage. Each character is portrayed by two actors. One actor is in the garment, with their face sticking out of the middle, either through a hole cut into the garment or by leaving some buttons open. The second actor is behind the first and has their arms through the armholes of the garment. This actor does all the arm movements, while the one whose face sticks out speaks. Each garment should be long sleeve. A grocery bag is next to DRESS with some spray bottles full of water labeled Faith, Sweetness, Caring, and Prayer. An iron is also within reach.

BLOUSE: There she is again. Look at that Dress.

SHIRT: I know.

BLOUSE: So pretty and clean and wrinkle-free. Like she was pulled off the rack yesterday.

SHIRT: I know.

BLOUSE: I haven't looked that good since Little Timmy's first birthday party.

SHIRT: I can't even remember the last time I was that straight and pressed.

BLOUSE: Seems no matter what I do or how long I iron, I can't get these wrinkles out.

SHIRT: Makes you mad, doesn't it?

BLOUSE: Mad, bitter... makes me wanna see to it she has an accident involving cranberry sauce.

SHIRT: Or falls under a bus! We'll see how pristine she looks then!

DRESS: Hi there, Shirt. Hello, Blouse.

SHIRT: Why hello, Dress. Don't you look amazing today?

DRESS: Really?

BLOUSE: Aw, cut the false pride, Dress. You know you look amazing. All pretty and pressed like you were bought yesterday.

DRESS: Stop, you're embarrassing me.

SHIRT: Oh no, it's we who are embarrassed. I mean we look like cheap second-hand garage sale material next to you.

DRESS: No.