

THE BRIGHT SIDE

by A.C. Williams

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: Maddy is having a bad day, and she refuses to see anything in a positive light, even when Olivia tries to encourage her. When Olivia reveals that she is blind and still perfectly pleased with her circumstances, Maddy isn't quite sure how to handle it.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Olivia shouldn't go out of her way to let people know that she is blind. She should act blind, but ideally it would be good to have it be something of a surprise at the end. Have Maddy vary her tone or else the constant whining or constant state of anger will get old and boring. She needs to experience a variety of emotions. Olivia needs to be a steady source of cheerfulness. They need to be polar opposites of each other.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 3

TOPIC: Christian Living

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Philippians 4:6

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon Starter, Youth Service

CHARACTERS:

Olivia—a blind person who is missing her cane

Maddy—a teenager who is having a bad day

Andrew—Olivia's friend

PROPS: A bench (or a row of chairs); a cane for Olivia; a pair of sunglasses (if your actor is good enough to not need them, the sunglasses aren't essential)

COSTUMES: Olivia should be dressed brightly. Maddy should be in more drab colors to accentuate the differences between their outlooks on life.

SOUND: Three wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A school bus stop

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Lights up. OLIVIA is sitting on the bench. MADDY enters in a huff, and OLIVIA turns to face her.

OLIVIA: Good morning.

MADDY: Not really.

OLIVIA: It seems like a nice morning to me.

MADDY: (*Explodes*) I just can't believe it!

OLIVIA: Believe what?

MADDY: I got a parking ticket. A parking ticket! So I didn't have enough change to get the whole hour on the parking meter. Big deal. I thought they'd give me a break. It's not like I drive a fancy car. They should have assumed that I'm just a poor kid with no money. But no. They slap this huge fine on me. I didn't have enough money to pay the parking meter. How am I going to pay for this ticket?

OLIVIA: I'm really sorry to hear that.

MADDY: That's not the worst of it. My car's a wreck, and I have to drive across town to go to school. I spend all my money on gas.

OLIVIA: I ride the bus. I actually don't mind it. I get to talk to people, and it's cheaper.

MADDY: Yeah, well my school doesn't have buses. It's this fancy private school my parents make me go to. They gave me this wreck of a car to drive to this snobby school, and they only pay half my gas. It's not fair.

OLIVIA: Life isn't fair at all.

MADDY: Not one bit fair.

OLIVIA: But whenever I start feeling down about things that are happening in my life, I just start telling God about my problems, and I feel better.

MADDY: That's kind of clichéd.

OLIVIA: Maybe, but it works. There's a verse in the Bible that says not to worry about anything, but to pray about everything. To tell God what you need and thank him for what he's already done.

MADDY: Well, what good will that do?

OLIVIA: It changes your perspective.