

THE HORSESHOE NAIL

by Scott Crain

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: A teenage son comes home late and gets a lesson on the importance of little things.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: The relationship between the father and son is a loving and healthy one, so take care that neither of them are portrayed as stereotypes or 'villains.'

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Christian Living, Youth

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 25:21

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon Starter, Worship Service

CHARACTERS:

COBY

DAD

PROPS: A watch, work bench, tool box, a piece of felt or cloth, tools including a hammer, nail

COSTUMES: Contemporary

SOUND: Two wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A suburban garage

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www.DramaMinistry.com
ISSN 1084-5917

Publisher: **Regi Stone**

Executive Editor: **Kimberlee Crisafulli** / Assistant Editor: **Scott Crain**

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Lights up on the garage; DAD stands at the workbench, digging through a tool box. He removes a hammer as COBY enters, sees him, and stops.

COBY: Uh, hey, Dad.

DAD: *(Turning)* Hey.

COBY: You're up late.

DAD: Funny. I was about to say the same thing. What time is it?

COBY: *(Nervously glancing at watch)* 10:46.

DAD: And what time's curfew?

COBY: 10:30.

DAD: So?

COBY: So.

DAD: Why didn't you call?

COBY: I dunno. I guess I thought fifteen minutes wasn't that big of a deal.

He shifts his feet and looks nervously back at his father, who nods.

DAD: Can we talk about that for a second?

COBY: *(Smiling)* You're the one holding the hammer.

DAD grins and motions to the tool box. COBY comes closer as DAD reaches into the tool box and removes a folded piece of felt. He opens the felt and pulls out an old crooked nail. He holds it up for COBY to see.

DAD: You know what that is?

COBY: A nail?

DAD: *(Nods)* Not just a nail. A horseshoe nail. It's been in our family for generations. My grandfather gave it to my dad, who gave it to me, and now I'm giving it to you.

He hands it to COBY, who stares back at him, dumbfounded.

COBY: Um...thanks.

DAD: I know it's not much to look at, but that nail was once responsible for the downfall of an entire kingdom.