

## THE LADDER *by John Coper*

**GENRE:** Comedy

**SYNOPSIS:** A man whose neighbor is in desperate need of a ladder finds a hundred excuses not to offer him that ladder.

**TIME:** 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 1M, 1F

**THEME:** Witnessing, Evangelism; Christian living; Neighbors

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Matthew 10:32-33

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Sermon Illustration, Evangelism training

**CHARACTERS:**

GEORGE and MILDRED—a married couple

**PROPS:** None required; a window, if desired

**COSTUMES:** Pajamas

**SOUND:** Two wireless microphones

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** A living room

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** This should sound just like a conversation two people might have about religion and witnessing, not simply about a ladder. Make sure the actors commit to it with that level of seriousness. It will bring out the humor and, more importantly, the message.

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*GEORGE is looking out a window, a concerned look on his face, as MILDRED enters.*

**MILDRED:** George?

**GEORGE:** Morning, honey.

**MILDRED:** What are you staring at? Mrs. Honeycutt's not out in her swim suit again.

**GEORGE:** No, it's too cold for that.

**MILDRED:** Is that Harry?

**GEORGE:** Yup.

**MILDRED:** What's he doing?

**GEORGE:** Cleaning his gutters, I think.

**MILDRED:** What's he standing on?

**GEORGE:** I'm not sure. Looks like his garbage can.

*There's a loud crashing sound off stage.*

**MILDRED:** *(In alarm)* Oh!

**GEORGE:** Yep, definitely the garbage can.

**MILDRED:** He fell right through!

**GEORGE:** Those Rubbermaids aren't meant to support the weight of a full grown man. He should have filled it with something to give him more support.

**MILDRED:** You know what he needs, George. A ladder.

**GEORGE:** Yeah. That would do it.

**MILDRED:** Don't you have a ladder in the garage?

**GEORGE:** I think so.

**MILDRED:** Well...