

THE LONG DRIVE HOME

by Dan Garcia

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: To show how easy it is to get caught up in criticizing and judging others.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Timing is everything in this sketch. Work with the actors to make sure the simultaneous lines and movements are indeed simultaneous. Avoid the trap of making Debbie and Linda stereotypes. They are real women caught in the "Can't see the log in my eye because I'm focused on the speck in hers" syndrome. To emphasize the parallels between the couples, you might try having the couples pantomime the same driving moves at the same time. For example, orchestrate a hard right turn at one point and a hard left turn at another.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 4

TOPIC: Gossip, Judging Others

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Romans 14:3, Romans 12:10

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Easter

CHARACTERS:

Debbie & Robert Jones-A married couple on their way home
Linda & John Smith-A married couple on their way home

PROPS: Two sets of chairs

COSTUMES: Casual picnic outfits

SOUND: Four wireless mics

LIGHTING: General stage or two specials, one on each couple

SETTING: The front seat of two automobiles

Drama Ministry

service@DramaMinistry.com
www.DramaMinistry.com
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Lights up on two sets of chairs on opposite sides of the stage. Debbie and Robert are in one car and Linda and John are in the other.

Robert: *(Steering)* Are you okay, honey? You've been awfully quiet ever since we left the picnic.

John: *(Steering)* You seem quiet. What's wrong?

Debbie: I'm fine. It's nothing.

Linda: Nothing.

John: Come on, what's up?

Linda: Oh ... I just keep thinking about the picnic. And her.

John: Who?

Robert: Debbie. Talk to me.

Debbie: Oh, it's just ... I can't stop replaying her voice in my head over and over and over ...

Robert: Whose voice?

John: Linda. I mean, c'mon, did she really annoy you that much?

Linda: Annoy me? No, she didn't annoy me. It's just that she was so ... loud. And pushy, very pushy.

John: She was just talkative.

Linda: Parrots are talkative, dear. She was not talkative.

Robert: Maybe you should just try to understand her.

Debbie: Understand her? How can you understand her when she's snorting?

Robert: Snorting?

Debbie: Yeah, *(Debbie snorts)* And she laughs at her own jokes.

Linda: And she didn't even laugh at my joke! And it was a great joke.

John: Oh, yeah? Let's hear it.

Linda: Okay ... Knock-knock.