

TRAIN UP A PARENT

by JOHN COSPER

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: Role reversal fun, as two kids struggle to raise their parents responsibly.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: The comic punch of this scene only works if every character is entirely committed, so cast with care and be sure your younger actors can really "sell" the grown-up roles with deadpan conviction.

TIME: 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2M, 2F

THEME: Parenting

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Proverbs 22:6

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Seeker Services; sermon illustration

CHARACTERS:

BILLY and HANNAH - Kids who act like parents

DAD and MOM - Parents who whine and act like kids

PROPS: Table, chairs, plates, utensils, and food for a family dinner

COSTUMES: Contemporary

SOUND: Wireless mics if desired

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A dining room

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Lights up. Billy, Hannah, Dad, and Mom are sitting around a dinner table. Their heads are bowed and eyes closed.

BILLY: Bless this food to the nourishment of our bodies. Amen.

Billy and Hannah begin to eat. Dad and Mom slouch in their chairs. Mom picks at her food but doesn't eat. Dad only eats the meat on his plate. After half a minute of settling into the meal, Hannah looks over at Mom. (Note: Billy is the hard parent in this scene, and Hannah is the softer one - the good cop to Billy's bad cop.)

HANNAH: What's the matter, Mom?

MOM: Nothing.

HANNAH: Eat your broccoli.

MOM: I don't like broccoli.

BILLY: Eat it, it's good for you.

MOM: No it's not.

BILLY: It's full of vitamins and nutrients that you need to keep your body healthy.

MOM: I don't like broccoli!

HANNAH: Honey, just eat a few bites, and--

BILLY: No, no, no, she can eat it all. She's a big girl. Now eat it!

MOM: No!!

BILLY: Your daughter worked very hard to make this meal. Now eat your broccoli!

MOM: No!!

BILLY: Starving parents in China would be happy to have that!

MOM: They can have it! I wanna cookie!

BILLY: If you want a cookie, you need to eat your broccoli!

MOM: No!!!

BILLY: Eat your broccoli!

Mom sticks her tongue out and blows a raspberry at Billy.