

## WHERE'S JESUS?

by Troy Schmidt

**GENRE:** Comedy

**SYNOPSIS:** Dad searches for a missing Jesus from the Nativity scene while his family falls apart.

**TIME:** Under 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 4

**TOPIC:** Christmas

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Acts 20:35, Luke 2:6

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Christmas

**SUGGESTED USE:** Worship Service, Christmas Service

**CHARACTERS:** DAD, MOM, BILLY, CHRISSEY

**PROPS:** A manger scene, figurines, handheld video game, cooking pot

**COSTUMES:** Contemporary clothing, appropriate to character

**SOUND:** Four wireless microphones

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** Living room

### Drama Ministry

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### Director's Tip:

This script is frantic and fast paced. Mom is in a total panic because she has dinner guests arriving any minute and she is nowhere near ready. As if that weren't enough, her family is of no help at all. We need to feel for Mom. It would be easy for the audience to dismiss Mom. Her lines are a bit acerbic. But the audience will empathize with her if she is played as a truly nice, caring person up against insurmountable odds. Instead of going for the obvious—having her bark orders at her family—consider a more subtle approach to Mom. We will feel more for Mom if she is trying to maintain composure in her panic. If her first line is barking or yelling at Dad, we won't like her and won't feel anything for her. If her first line is just a plainly stated question, she'll be a more sympathetic character. Her second line to Dad can be delivered like she's trying to guide a child in the process of rational thought. She's trying to guide her family, teach them how to help prepare the house for guests, and we are on her side. One of the points of the script is to help us learn to prepare our hearts for the ultimate guest: Jesus. Mom has the right idea; she's just a little misguided.

in his own right, Dad also has the right idea, if a little dimly. He, at least, is focusing on Jesus, even if it is a small plastic one. But he, too, is missing the point. He's so consumed with finding a plastic figurine that he's forgotten about preparing his home for guests and thereby welcoming the real Jesus to his home and heart.

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*Scene opens in a living room. A manger sits on a table. DAD enters with a donkey and a wise man figurine and puts them in their place. He starts to look around, as if something is missing. MOM enters in a panic.*

**MOM:** You haven't set the table?

**DAD:** No, I was putting the finishing touches on the manger. Billy's too old for that now. Besides, when he does it, the wise men end up in some kind of ninja battle with the shepherds.

*DAD picks up a wise man and shepherd and fakes a martial arts CRY and mini-battle. MOM is not amused and DAD immediately stops.*

**MOM:** The O'Briens are coming over in ten minutes, and all you can think about is ninja shepherds?

**DAD:** The table, right. I'll get on it. *(Remembers)* Oh, it seems something is missing from the manger scene. Do you know where Jesus went?

**MOM:** Well, I hope he doesn't come for dinner. Because he won't have a place to sit!