

WINTER'S WALK

by Carolyn Williford

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: To show the essence of our attempts at intimacy with God, paralleling prayer with a walk in the snow.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Prayer

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 11:1-4, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: General Church Service

CHARACTERS:

Mark-A new Christian, struggling, yet doggedly continuing in his prayer efforts; hopeful but slightly confused
Anita-Full of joy and anticipation in sharing her experience; her excitement builds throughout the sketch

PROPS: Two stools, set a short distance apart

COSTUMES: Contemporary dress, appropriate to character

SOUND: Two wireless mikes

LIGHTING: Spotlights on each actor

SETTING: Bare stage

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Director's Tip:

There isn't a lot of action here; in fact, there is no interaction between the characters. That can make your job as director difficult. Without much physical action, it can be hard to keep the audience interested. Work with the actors on subtext and motivation-what their characters are thinking; the reasons they are saying what they're saying; to whom are they actually speaking, etc. To help the actors focus on their emotional action, have them go through the script and mark the verbs. Most of them are in the present tense. In fact, at one point, Anita switches from past tense to present tense as if she is reliving her walk. If the actors are aware of and use the present-tense verbs to re-enact, the audience will feel more "in the moment." So don't dismiss this as an easy sketch to direct because there isn't a lot of blocking. Spend some time with the text-and with the actors-so this analogy comes alive for the audience.

Scene opens with Mark and Anita seated on stools. They speak to the audience.

MARK: I prayed today. I'm so new at this that it feels like I'm wandering around in the dark. But I want to know more about this God. And I guess ... I guess I want Him to know more about me, too.

ANITA: I went for a walk this morning. It was freezing cold, but the sun was out. And I mean out-the kind of brightness that makes you squint. The air felt so sharp and clean. It was one of those days that just seemed to welcome me ... a great day for a walk.

MARK: Sometimes I wonder how a person-especially like me-can just jump into his presence. I mean, think about it. Suddenly, I'm before God? Doesn't seem possible. Makes me hesitate a little. But then, I tell myself he's there ... he's listening. And then I just start talking.

ANITA: The neatest part is that it snowed last night-eight inches! Some places the snow drifted even deeper. I almost turned back-it was so rough. But then I decided it was the kind of day I couldn't miss. So I kept going.

MARK: I've heard it's best to start with praise. Seems like a good way to begin. So I think about my warm house when some people are homeless. Though it does need a new roof. And I thank him for my clothes. Though my only dress shoes have holes. And then I stop. I can't believe it. I'm thanking him and griping at the same time. It's so hard, you know? How do I keep my eyes on him-and not focus on me? How do you be ... really thankful?