

WORKING NIGHTS

by John Cosper

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: A middle-aged man trying to work off debts gets a “lesson” in life and money planning from his teenage coffee house co-worker.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Eddie needs to be as sincere and serious about his life plans as possible. The humor comes from the absurdity that he thinks his “plan” is actually feasible. Glen, meanwhile, responds as seriously as he can, without laughing, playing the straight man in the scene.

TIME: 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2M, 1F

THEME: Money management; Getting out of debt

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Proverbs 17:16

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon Illustration

CHARACTERS:

GLEN— a man in his 30's

CLARA—a young woman, manager of a coffee shop

EDDIE—a guy in his late teens

PROPS: A coffee counter, a stack of brochures.

COSTUMES: Uniforms for a coffee house like Starbucks

SOUND: Three wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A coffee house

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EDDIE is working behind the counter of a quick-serve coffee shop. CLARA, his manager, walks up to EDDIE. GLEN is behind her, tying on an apron.

CLARA: Eddie?

EDDIE: What?

CLARA: This is Glen. He's our newest team member.

EDDIE: I thought you were gonna hire that one girl! The blonde?

CLARA: *(Ignoring him)* I've asked Glen to shadow you tonight so you can teach him the ropes.

EDDIE: You mean I get to be a trainer? Cool!

CLARA: Eddie's my most senior employee. He's been here three whole months!

GLEN: *(Pretends to be impressed)* Wow.

CLARA: He'll start you out right. If you have any questions, though, holler.

GLEN: Thank you, Clara.

CLARA exits.

GLEN: So, Eddie.

EDDIE: So, Glen. Is it okay if I call you Glen?

GLEN: Why not?

EDDIE: Sometimes old people get mad when you call them by their first names. They like to be Mister or Missus.

GLEN: How old do you think I am?

EDDIE: Old enough not to be working here.

GLEN: *(Shrugs)* Well, I do have a day job in an office.

EDDIE: You do? Why did you get a job here?

GLEN: I was out of work for a while, and I got into a little debt. I thought this would be a good way to get that paid off more quickly.

EDDIE: So you took another job to pay off your debts?