

SOMETHING MISSING

by Tamra Teig

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: A mother realizes that there's something missing from her family's celebration of Easter.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES: Keep the delivery as down-to-earth and genuine as possible in order to make JIM and SARAH real-life characters that we can relate to.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Easter

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 27:33-56

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Easter

SUGGESTED USE: Seeker Service, Brings up the question of belief, and the lack of it, in relation to Easter

CHARACTERS:

SARAH—wife

JIM—husband

PROPS: Living room chair, lamp, newspaper, laundry basket full of clothes, large box marked "Easter" containing three large Easter baskets, bags of jelly beans, Peeps, a very large chocolate bunny, plastic eggs, and an Easter card

COSTUMES: Casual, comfortable clothes—Sarah may be in sweat suit or pj's

SOUND: Two wireless microphones

LIGHTING: Soft stage lights, spotlight for Sarah

SETTING: Living room

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ISSN 1084-5917

Drama Ministry is a division of
Belden Worship Resources
www.beldenworshipresources.com

Publisher: **Regi Stone**

Executive Editor: **Kimberlee Crisafulli** / Assistant Editor: **Scott Crain**

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As the scene opens, JIM is sitting in his easy chair, reading the newspaper, and SARAH is sitting on the floor, folding laundry.

JIM: *(Closes the newspaper and throws it down beside the chair, stands up, yawning and stretching)* Well, I'm beat. I'm going to bed...

SARAH: Oh no you don't—did you forget?

JIM: What?

SARAH: We have an important job to do! *(She pulls a large cardboard box marked "EASTER" from behind his chair, and pulls out a clear bag of plastic eggs in one hand, and three big Easter baskets in the other, waving them in the air.)*

JIM: *(Groaning)* Oh, no! Not that! Can't we just...stuff it all under their pillows?

SARAH: Sorry, wrong childhood myth. *(Dumps out the eggs and candy bags)* Here, you do the jelly beans—and I'll do the Peeps. *(She starts stuffing eggs energetically)*

JIM resignedly trudges over and joins SARAH on the floor, and begins stuffing some eggs.

SARAH's pace slows as she starts looking pensive, then stops stuffing suddenly.

JIM: What's wrong?

SARAH: I feel like we're forgetting something. *(She starts rummaging through the box)*

JIM: You're kidding, right? *(Holds up a huge chocolate bunny)* We have enough sugar here to fuel an entire busload of kids!

SARAH: No, not that...it's just that, it seems like something's...missing... *(Stops rummaging and brings out an old-fashioned looking Easter card from the box)* Oh, look. Here's the last Easter card my Grandma Johnson gave me, right before she... *(Opens the card and reads)* "Wishing you all the joys of this blessed season. Love, Gram." *(Wistfully)* I loved Easter at Grandma's—it was...

JIM: *(Enthusiastically jumping in)* Yeah, me too! My Grandma Smith made this great honey glazed ham with pineapple rings and those little cherry things stuck all over it... and home-made hot cross buns...just like in the nursery rhyme! And my cousin Chris ate so many malted milk eggs he got sick all over the kids' table. *(SARAH gives him a horrified look that wipes the smile off his face)* What?!? Those are great memories!

SARAH: No, no! Easter really meant something at Grandma's. It wasn't about the huge meal, or even all the family getting together. It's hard to explain...we all went to church together Easter morning, and we were so happy because...because...