

A FATHER'S ROLE

by Karen Lund

GENRE: Light Drama

SYNOPSIS: A Christian father works through his ever-changing role in his child's life, from the baby's first weeks home from the hospital to his daughter's wedding. An endearing approach to the difficulty of 'letting go' as children leave the nest, and an encouragement to fathers who are struggling with feelings of inadequacy.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: The scenes should be played for light humor. Small, quick (but distinct) changes in clothing and props can help to represent the changing fashions as the characters get older, without the need for dramatic sets or furniture shifts. Or, by adding actors and making some minor changes in character names, the three scenes could also be played as three separate fathers.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Parenting

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Deuteronomy 11:19, Isaiah 38:19

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Father's Day Service, Worship Service

CHARACTERS:

ERIC—a father

PAM—his wife

PROPS: Baby bundle, rocking chair, digital camera, comb, lint roller

COSTUMES: Contemporary

SOUND: Two wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A suburban home at three different times

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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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Scene One:

It is 2:00 AM. ERIC enters carrying a baby bundle, the size of a newborn infant. He's rocking and comforting the baby throughout.

ERIC: Shh...Shh, now. Let mommy get some sleep, okay? She's been up four times with you already. How about you and me hang out here for a little while? Shh. Shh. *(He begins to sing)* "Hush, little baby, don't say a word. Papa's going to buy you a mockingbird. If that mockingbird don't sing, Papa's going to buy you a diamond ring..." There you go—just close those eyes. That's my girl.

He takes a fresh look at her.

My goodness, you're beautiful. Do you know that? You're the most beautiful baby I've ever seen. Do you have any idea how much your mom and I love you? *(Smiles)* Nope. How could you? I didn't have any idea I could love anyone this much. Let me know if I'm doing any of this parenting stuff wrong, okay? I'm still very new at this—I'm sort of learning as I go. *(He sighs)* Just look at you. God gave you to us so beautiful and so perfect—I don't want to mess you up.

Praying:

Please don't let me. God, I love our little Katie. Help me with her. Help me be what she needs in a father. Thank you for helping me through these first few weeks—I'm loving this, I truly am. I'm really, really tired all the time, but I don't think I've ever been so happy. I mean, I'm holding one of your miracles in my arms right now. Guide me. Help me to be the best daddy I can be. I'm here. I'm ready. I'm listening.

The baby begins to stir.

Shh. Shh. *(Begins singing again)* "Hush little baby, don't say a word. Daddy's gonna buy you a mockingbird. If that mockingbird don't sing, Daddy's going to buy you a diamond ring..."

He exits, still singing.

Scene Two:

ERIC and PAM enter. ERIC has a camera in hand. PAM has a comb in one hand, a lint roller in the other.

PAM: Didn't they look great?

ERIC: They sure did.