

AS THE MIND TURNS

by CLARE SERA

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: Dean and Susan are engaged and have decided to see a premarital counselor, more because it's "the thing to do" than because they think they need to. As they wait outside the counselor's office, they both start to think a little more seriously about what they're getting into. Through a fun use of voice-over, the audience gets to hear what Dean and Susan are really thinking—but not saying—about their impending marriage

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Love, Relationships, Communication

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 19:4-6

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service, Youth Service

CHARACTERS:

Dean - A young man, about to be married

Susan - A young woman, about to be married

PROPS: 1) Two chairs
2) Small table
3) Pamphlets and magazines
4) Door (optional)

COSTUMES: Contemporary

SOUND: Two wireless mics; offstage mics for inner voices or recording of inner voices to be played over the sound system

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Waiting area outside a marriage counselor's office

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Director's Tip:

You'll need to work on the timing of the voice-overs to keep the pace of this sketch moving. You have two choices for the voice-overs: They can be prerecorded by the actors playing Dean and Susan or they can be performed "live" offstage by two other actors. Either way can work well. Choose the method that best suits your actors and your situation. If you use live actors backstage, they should be placed where they can see what's happening onstage. If you use prerecorded voice-overs, you'll need to practice, practice, practice with the actors so the timing is just right. Either way, have fun. This script isn't meant to be a downer, but it should open some lively conversations on a number of topics as we see a negative example in progress.

SUSAN and DEAN ENTER, in mid-conversation. They are holding hands, very comfortable with each other. Two chairs and a table with some literature are center stage.

DEAN: And the bartender says, "We don't serve dogs here." So 99 dogs say, "I'm just looking for the guy that shot my paw!"

They both laugh heartily. We hear the offstage voices of their inner thoughts.

DEAN'S THOUGHTS Yes! She loves it when I'm funny.

SUSAN'S THOUGHTS It's so cute when he tries to be amusing.

SUSAN gives DEAN a little kiss on the cheek and they walk up to a door. DEAN reads the sign on the door.

DEAN: "Pre-Marriage Counseling. Be back in five minutes. Make yourself comfortable."

SUSAN: Should we? Or should we just come back later?

DEAN AND SUSAN'S THOUGHTS Let's get out of here!

DEAN: We should probably wait, huh?

SUSAN: Yeah.

They sit on the two chairs.

DEAN: What kind of questions does a pre-marriage counselor ask? Is he going to be mad because we're already living together?

SUSAN: No, he'll probably just ask us what kind of wedding we want. And he'll probably want to make sure we're compatible, and that we know each other well enough to