

# Drama Ministry®

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## CROSSING THE BRIDGE

by CINDI A. STROBEL

**GENRE:** Comedy

**SYNOPSIS:** Two adults trying to decide if a small footbridge is safe to cross are amazed when a child comes along and skips across without fear.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** The cast breakdown is described as one adult male and one adult female and a female child actress, but that's flexible depending on your drama team.

**TIME:** Under 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 2M, 1F

**THEME:** Trust

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Matthew 14:22-33

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Sermon Starter

**CHARACTERS:**

John—very methodical, calculating

Suzanne—nervous, jittery

Carly—a carefree, trusting 6-8 year-old

**PROPS:** Clipboard, pen, measuring tape, duffle bag, topographical maps, notebook, life jacket, bike helmet, box of Band-aids, other miscellaneous small instruments for JOHN

**COSTUMES:** Casual, modern dress

**SOUND:** Wireless microphones

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** A small bridge, like one used for landscaping, on the stage left side, with about 2/3 of the bridge visible and the very end behind the curtain, where it can't be seen.

### Drama Ministry

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**JOHN:** is checking out every square inch of the bridge, crawling underneath to look, checking it for wobbles, testing the tightness of screws, measuring the thickness of boards, etc.

*He opens his duffle bag, pulls out a few topographical maps and a notebook, makes some notes on the notebook, talking to himself as he goes.*

**JOHN:** Okay, 36 inches times the square root of 782, and let's see...barometer is 10, and the wind is...*(licks finger, holds it up)*...from the east. Now, the topographical map says we are 245 feet above sea level...OH! I'd better check the relative humidity under the south corner of this bridge....

*He ducks under bridge, holding a small instrument; SUZANNE approaches and watches him.*

**SUZANNE:** Ahhh... excuse me, what are you doing?

*JOHN startles, bumps his head on the bridge.*

**JOHN:** Ow....Oh hello. I'm just testing the bridge, you know, to see if it's safe to cross.

**SUZANNE:** Why do you want to cross it? What's on the other side?

**JOHN:** I don't know, but I heard there's something good over there. I'm just weighing the risk factors.

**SUZANNE:** *(peers over, trying to see what's on the other side, decides it definitely isn't worth it, shakes head)* Nope. Too big of a risk, don't do it.

**JOHN:** Now, how do you know that? You've been standing here for, what, ten seconds?

**SUZANNE:** I can't see the other side. If I can't see it, I don't trust it. It's got to be right here in front of me or I don't trust it!

**JOHN:** Oh, come on, it all comes down to a matter of science. *(shows his notebook)* See this? According to my data, something really cool is going to happen if I cross this bridge. I've been up here all morning analyzing and calculating the risk to see if it's worth crossing the bridge or not.

**SUZANNE:** You've got to be kidding me! You've spent the entire morning analyzing that bridge? I could have told you hours ago that it's not safe. Look at it! You can't even see the other side! There's no way I'd cross it.

**JOHN:** Actually, my calculations come out okay, I just need a little extra equipment. *(leans over to his duffle bag, begins to rifle through it)*