

Drama Ministry®

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DANGER ZONE

by TIM SHOEMAKER

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: To open discussions with youth about the dangers of drugs and other addictive habits.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: It's best if the audience doesn't get that this sketch is meant to open discussions about drugs and other addictions. They'll catch on that it's about peer pressure, but don't overplay it. Use as many "extras" as you like to give the feel of a field trip group and work with those students so they add to the scene but don't draw attention to themselves.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 7

TOPIC: Addictions, Youth

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 26:41, 1 Corinthians 10:12-13

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Youth Service, Palm Sunday

CHARACTERS:

Guide-Adult; tour guide of a research laboratory

Bart-High school student; he questions authority

Candy-High school student; Bart's friend

Students-Four to six other high school students on the field trip

PROPS: Several signs with a radioactive warning symbol on them, large box with the radioactive warning symbol on the front, table, bowl of something gooey-Slime or mashed potatoes with food coloring

COSTUMES: Guide should have a lab coat; students are dressed in contemporary clothing appropriate to character

SOUND: Three wireless mics

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A research laboratory

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GUIDE ENTERS and motions for others to follow him into the room. BART, CANDY and STUDENTS ENTER. They are on a tour of a research laboratory.

Guide: All right, students. Keep moving in. *(Pauses to be sure all are listening)* I call this room the “Danger Zone.” We’re doing some research with radioactive materials in here. *(Pointing to large box on the table)* This stuff can kill you!

CANDY and STUDENTS take a step or two away from the box. BART doesn’t move.

Guide: You’ve got the right idea, there. In fact, why don’t we move along to our other research lab. Follow me, please.

GUIDE EXITS. STUDENTS EXIT. BART shuffles along so he is at the end of the group and motions for CANDY to slow down and wait for him. CANDY is unsure but moves back toward BART. As the last STUDENT leaves, BART stops, checks to be sure they are gone and turns to CANDY.

Candy: *(Confused)* What are you doing?

Bart: Shhhh. Not so loud. *(Checks exit to be sure nobody is looking for them.)*

Candy: *(Pulling him toward the exit)* C’mon, Bart. We’re going to miss part of the tour.

Bart: Forget the tour. I think the real excitement is right here in this room.

Candy: Excitement? You heard the guide. He called this room the “Danger Zone.”

Bart: *(Mocking)* “Danger Zone.” What does he know? He’s got to be over 40 years old. He’s like almost my parents’ age.

Candy: What’s that got to do with it?

Bart: Everything. When you get that old, you’ve lost your edge. There’s no hunger for a little adventure. Do you know my dad won’t even go on the roller coasters at the park? He’s always warning me about how dangerous they are. If there’s ever been an accident anywhere in the world on a roller coaster, he knows about it.

Candy: Maybe he’s just being cautious.

Bart: Cautious? Uh-uh. Paranoid. That’s the way they all are. They’re afraid this will go wrong, or that will happen. *(Mocking)* “Stay away from this, Bart. Be careful of that.” I’m telling you, they’re paranoid. They don’t even know how to have fun anymore.

Candy: *(Hesitant)* What are you going to do?