

FAITH THAT WORKS

by DAPHNE DYKEMAN

GENRE: Light Drama

SYNOPSIS: Phil tries to convince a friend that faith without works isn't really faith at all.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: For a unique effect, light the foreground, where the two teens are talking, and the background, where the two homeless men are, separately. Begin the scene with only the foreground lights on. Light the background where indicated in the script.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 4

TOPIC: Christian Living, Faith

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: James 2:14-18

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service

CHARACTERS:

PHIL—a teen involved in a youth group program to sponsor a needy child

JEFF—Phil's friend and potential recruit for the program

HOMELESS MAN #1

HOMELESS MAN #2

PROPS: Pamphlet for child sponsorship program and signup sheet in a clipboard, wallet and five-dollar bill, a café sign over a doorway, café window with curtains beside the door

COSTUMES: The two teens are dressed in casual clothes; the two homeless men are dressed in shabby, dirty clothes.

SOUND: Wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage (although special lighting can be used if desired)

SETTING: A neighborhood sidewalk

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JEFF enters stage left, while PHIL enters stage right. They meet near the center, with PHIL seeing JEFF first and adjusting his body language and facial expression for his best salesman's approach.

PHIL: Hey, Jeff, got a minute?

JEFF: *(Immediately suspicious)* I guess it depends on what you're selling.

PHIL: *(Smoothly, adjusting his approach to JEFF'S skepticism)* Just a chance for you to make a difference in this world. *(Hands JEFF a pamphlet)* We're doing a mission fundraiser at youth group—we're going to collect enough money to sponsor a kid in Uganda for a year. How much can I put you down for? *(Holds up his sign up sheet, ready to write)*

JEFF: You're not caught up in one of those schemes, are you? All those groups that say "Save the world, one child at a time"? Well, as far as I can see, they're not making much headway. *(Takes out his wallet and a five-dollar bill)* I could give you this money, but there would still be hungry children all over the world. *(Puts the money back)* Do you know what the real problem is?

PHIL: What?

JEFF: Those people just don't have enough faith! That's where the solution is. You know how Jesus said that God knows every sparrow that falls from a tree? Matthew 10:29—look it up. God can handle the problem. If we just spent more time praying instead of spending so much time fundraising, we might make a difference.

PHIL: Are you serious?

JEFF: Sure. You know, it's the whole problem of faith and works. You have works, and I have faith. I just trust God to do the work that I can't.

PHIL: But that's a cop-out.

JEFF: It's what Martin Luther fought the Reformation for.

PHIL: Okay, look, we'll have a test. *(Lights come up on the backdrop, revealing two homeless men, several yards apart, slumped against a wall. PHIL points to the one closest to them.)* You see that guy over there? He looks as if he hasn't had a good meal in a couple of days. Why don't you try your faith on him?

JEFF: What do you mean?

PHIL: I mean, pray for him, believe that God will help him, and see what happens.

JEFF: Okay. *(Bows his head and prays silently)*