

FATHER DAUGHTER CHAT

by PAUL MALEY

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: To demonstrate how much parent/child communication has changed; to open discussion about good communication.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: You'll need two chairs facing the audience and two computer keyboards or laptops. What you're trying to establish is that Dad and Meghan are in two different locations, communicating through instant messaging on their computers. Meghan is at home. You can help show that by the kind of chair you have her in. DAD should be in an office chair or at least a straight-back chair. Don't add "realism" by setting up two complete computer systems-that will take away from the dialogue between father and daughter. But do set the scene for us so we understand where the characters are and that they're communicating over the Internet. We need to catch that right away, because the piece is so short.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Family, Communication

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Proverbs 20:11, Proverbs 22:6

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Family Service, Worship Service

CHARACTERS:

Dad-An overworked father

Meghan-Age 12 or 13; his daughter

PROPS: 1) Two chairs

2) Two computer keyboards or laptops (optional)

COSTUMES: Contemporary clothing, appropriate to character

SOUND: Two wireless mics

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Bare stage

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Scene opens with DAD and MEGHAN typing to each other over the Internet (via instant messaging). Both face the audience, interacting with each other only through their invisible computer monitors.

Dad: Hi, honey. How was your day?

Meghan: It was great. Yours, Daddy?

Dad: Super. Had a good day at work, got a lot of things taken care of. I sure like my new office. What did you do today?

Meghan: I hung out with my friends, Holly and Sarah. We had some ice cream and watched a video tonight.

Dad: Sounds like fun.

Meghan: It was. Wish you could have joined us.

Dad: Me, too. *(Pause)* Too much work to do. Sorry.

Meghan: Maybe next time.

Dad: Yeah. Well, I'd better say good night. Did you brush your teeth?

Meghan: Yes, Daddy.

Dad: Say your prayers?

Meghan: Yes, Daddy.

Dad: Great. Well, good night, sweetie.

Meghan: Good night, Daddy.

Dad: XOXO

Meghan: XOXO

They rise, look at each other.

Dad: I'm glad we had this talk.

Meghan: Good night, Daddy.

They EXIT in opposite directions.