

FATHER'S ADVICE NETWORK

by CHRISTINA MORALES

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: A brand-new father is full of panic about being responsible for his infant daughter, and turns to the Father's Advice Network for help.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Just because Mark and the Operator are voice-overs doesn't mean they are any less a part of this scene than Jeff. Rehearse them all and work with Mark and the Operator on vocal inflection since they are only using their voices to convey their characters. This is especially true for Mark. We need to hear his panic and be able to picture a hair-pulling, pacing, anxiety-ridden new dad. If you'd like, feel free to pre-record the Operator's lines so they have the authenticity of a recorded voice.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 3M

TOPIC: Anxiety, Doubts, Family, Parenting

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Deuteronomy 1:29-31; Psalm 103:13; Ephesians 6:4

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Father's Day

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon starter

CHARACTERS:

JEFF – Call center worker

MARK – Caller (voice-over)

OPERATOR – voice-over

PROPS: A desk, chair, and phone for Jeff

COSTUMES: Nothing specific required

SOUND: Wireless mics if desired; SFX: telephone ring

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A call center for the Father's Advice Network

Drama Ministry

service@DramaMinistry.com

www.DramaMinistry.com

ISSN 1084-5917

Drama Ministry is a partner of

Discover Worship

www.discoverworship.com

Publisher: **Regi Stone**

Executive Editor: **Rachel Hoyer**

Copyright ©2014 by Drama Ministry. Material is intended for use by the subscriber in the subscriber's local church. With the exception of scripts, no issue may be reproduced by any means. As a subscriber, you may make as many copies of scripts as needed in your church only. You may perform the sketch as often as you wish at no additional cost. Scripts and performance rights are not transferable between churches and cannot be resold. You may not use the sketch for any commercial or fundraising purpose, and usage rights do not extend to video, radio, television or film.

FATHER'S ADVICE NETWORK *by Christina Morales*

SFX: Telephone Ring. Voice-over of options in robotic tone

OPERATOR: (Voice-over from backstage) If your baby won't stop crying, please press 1. If your son has a Lego stuck up his nose, please press 2. If you are wondering whether Cheez Its are considered a vegetable, Press 3. If you are concerned that mobile devices will fry your child's brain, please press 4. Did you forget to buy a birthday gift for your wife? Press 5 for a listing of local jewelers. If you are a father of a teenage girl who brought home a scrawny, pimply boy with shifty eyes, please press 6 for popular scare tactics. For a listing of local golf courses, please press 7. All other queries, press 0 and our operator will be with you shortly. Thank you for using the Father's Advice Network.

SFX: Telephone ring

Jeff is sitting at a desk when the phone rings. Mark is a voiceover off stage.

JEFF: (*answering phone*) Father's Advice Network. This is Jeff. How can I help you?

MARK: (*freaking out*) My wife just had a baby! I'm a dad! What do I do?

JEFF: Okay, sir. Now just calm down. First of all, what's your name?

MARK: Mark. Mark Thompson. But wait! Now someone's going to start calling me Dad!

JEFF: Hi, Mark. I'm here to help you.

MARK: Good, man, because I don't think I really thought this thing through! My daughter Sophie is five minutes old and I just realized how much I don't know. How often do I change her diaper? What if she won't stop crying? What if I drop her?

JEFF: Slow down, Mark. Now breathe. In and out. In and out. Hee hee hoo. Hee hee hoo. (*Both start to do the Lamaze breathing pattern. Jeff realizes what he's doing, and quickly changes the subject.*) Um, feeling better?

MARK: Yeah, a little. But my goldfish died after a week. How am I supposed to care for another human?

JEFF: Don't worry. Every new dad feels this way. You'll do fine. Change her when she's wet, feed her when she cries, and pray that she bounces if you drop her.

MARK: WHAT?!

JEFF: Just kidding. You'll be great. You'll know what to do when the time comes. Feel free to call us if you have any more questions. (*He is about to hang up phone*)

MARK: Wait! But once I get a hang of those things, what about choosing the right school? Or what about the day she comes home and wants me to teach her to drive?