

Drama Ministry®

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JANE AND JOE

by KAREN LUND

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: To show, through hyperbole, the lengths to which people will go to “find” peace.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: There are a lot of props here, so be careful not to let them get in the way of the acting. They are to help tell the story; the story isn't about the props. Avoid the temptation to play Joe and Jane as ditzes. They are intelligent young adults; they're just missing some pretty key information in their quest for inner peace. The sad part is, it's within their grasp and they've completely missed it. Their friends mentioned Jesus, but Joe and Jane are focused on finding an external answer to provide internal peace. Yes, this sketch is over the top—it's hyperbole—it's much funnier if the characters are played seriously. The actors might be tempted to play over the top. Help them to make the characters real, which will make the sketch that much more humorous.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Peace, Salvation

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Philippians 4:7-9, Colossians 3:15

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Christmas, Worship Service

CHARACTERS: Joe-Age 30; smart and observant but not perceptive he sees that his friends are doing something different, but doesn't grasp what that is
Jane-Age 30; also intelligent, but not even as observant as Joe; she goes for all the external “answers”

PROPS: 1) Several large packages for Joe, Several large packages for Jane, New jogging shoes (in Joe's packages), Vegetarian cookbooks (in Jane's packages), “Equal Rights for Beef” buttons (in Jane's packages), “Say No to Fast Food” bumper stickers (in Jane's packages), Granola, Birkenstock sandals (in Joe's packages), Book entitled “Daily Affirmations for You and Your Coworkers” (in Jane's), Books on meditation, crystals, and karate shirts (in Jane's packages)

COSTUMES: Contemporary dress, appropriate to character

SOUND: Two wireless mics

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Jane and Joe's home

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JANE AND JOE *by Karen Lund*

The scene is JANE and JOE'S house.

JOE: *(Calling from offstage:)* Honey, I'm home! *(He ENTERS, carrying several large packages.)*

JANE: *(Running in from the next room with several large packages)* Oh, Joe! Joe, I'm so glad you're home. *(Noticing his packages)* Honey, what have you got there? It's not our anniversary, is it?

JOE: No, dear, I've just been doing a lot of serious thinking today.

JANE: So have I, Joe.

JOE: And some serious shopping, too, it looks like.

JANE: Well, this is all part of what I've been thinking about today. Last night, when we were over at Ted and Marcia's, I felt really peaceful and at ease. They seemed so calm, so confident, so sure of who they are. And I kept asking myself, "What do they have that we don't have?"

JOE: Yes, I felt the same way, Jane. There is definitely something different about them and I think I've discovered what it is. This morning, when Ted came into the office, I watched him very carefully, and I noticed he came to work in jogging shoes. Immediately, I understood Marcia and Ted's secret. Although he never talks about it, they are so obviously exercising. They jog, Jane. They jog! So, I didn't hesitate. During my lunch hour, I went to the mall and got us each a pair of the latest air support, pumped up, glow-in-the-dark jogging shoes. *(He opens a box, revealing the new shoes.)* I'm certain we'll be able to "find ourselves" through healthy exercise.

JANE: *(Putting on the jogging shoes)* Oh, honey, I think you're right. *(Grabbing one of her own boxes)* And, Joe, did you notice she served fish for dinner and rice instead of potatoes?

JOE: Well, yes, now that you mention it.

JANE: It may seem I'm jumping to conclusions, but I believe the source of that calm and joy they have must be vegetarian eating.

JOE: Jane, you may be on to something.

JANE: So, this morning, when you went to work, I went shopping and found *(opening packages)* these vegetarian cookbooks. I also found these "Equal Rights for Beef" buttons that I think we should wear. And these bumper stickers will let people know we disapprove of fast food. Now, we should display these in key locations. *(She places them throughout the house, then peels and puts one on JOE'S back.)*

JOE: Well, this does seem to be helping.