

MISSING PERSONS

by KRIS RASMUSSEN

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: A brother and a sister face an awkward reunion after their mother's funeral.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: This is a scene where there is as much communicated in silence as there is with dialogue. As a rehearsal technique, have the actors work through the "beats" (the moments in the scene) without using their lines. Actors must rely on gestures and responses to each other to get their points across. This will help inform their emotional life the next time they run through the scene with dialogue.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Loss, Death

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Proverbs 17:17, Matthew 5:24

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Bible Study, Small Group, Worship Service

CHARACTERS:

PAUL-male in his 30s or 40s

SARAH-Paul's sister, also in her 30s or 40s

PROPS: Stools, counter, dishes, food, phone

COSTUMES: Something that would be worn to a funeral

SOUND: 2 cordless mics; sound of phone ringing offstage

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Kitchen

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www.DramaMinistry.com
ISSN 1084-5917

Drama Ministry is a division of
Belden Worship Resources
www.beldenworshipresources.com

Publisher: **Regi Stone**

Executive Editor: **Kimberlee Crisafulli** / Assistant Editor: **Scott Crain**

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SARAH is in the kitchen. The counter looks like a mini potluck-casseroles, cakes, and so on, everywhere. The phone rings; SARAH ignores it. She covers the food with plastic wrap, but in an agitated manner. The phone stops ringing. PAUL enters, clearly uncomfortable. He waits for SARAH to say something. The phone starts ringing again.

PAUL: Want me to get that?

SARAH: No.

PAUL: Sorry, I... *(Trails off lamely)*

SARAH: No problem.

PAUL: I needed to get away...after.

SARAH: Sure.

PAUL: *(Phone still ringing)* I could get that.

Phone stops ringing.

SARAH: Every relative whose name I don't remember because I haven't seen them since I was in diapers has called or visited this house today.

PAUL: Yeah, I saw the last Dodge Dynasty pull out of the driveway as I pulled in.

SARAH: I can take you to the airport tomorrow. When does your plane leave?

PAUL: It doesn't. I'm not leaving for a while. I thought...

SARAH: I don't need your help. But you can take some of these leftovers.

PAUL: Don't we have lawyers to see...stuff to pack up?

SARAH: Mom lived right here with me and Dan the last few months. Her house is pretty much empty.

PAUL: Oh. Right.

SARAH: I'm the only one listed as executor of the will anyway.

PAUL: I know. You've told me that twice already. Go ahead. Get it off your chest and stop being such a hag.

SARAH ignores PAUL and continues to put food away. PAUL sits down on a stool at the counter.