

MISSING THE POINT

by RACHEL C. HOYER

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: Four friends arrive at a women's retreat and realize they are at very different points in their spiritual walk.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: The more "thematic" you can get with the props, the more fun your actors will have with the script. But if gardening props are a problem, the script still works with minimal props

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 4F

TOPIC: Christian Living, Spiritual Walk, Faith Growth

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Isaiah 58:11

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon starter

CHARACTERS:

BETH – an involved church member; really enthusiastic about this year's retreat

KAREN – Beth's friend; learned a lot at last year's retreat; is really looking forward to this year's

MARGIE – Beth's friend; a Master Gardener, so she's really pumped about the retreat theme

SUSAN – Beth's friend; misunderstood last year's theme; doesn't want the same disappointment, so she did her homework this time, but she still missed the point

PROPS: A stack of books on gardening, garden gloves, gardening hat, garden kneeler, small gardening tools, packets of seeds, "tool belt" full of gardening tools—the more gardening supplies, the better

COSTUMES: All are dressed casually—they have just come to the hotel for the retreat. Beth is dressed like a professional gardener—she could even have a patch on her shirt that says Master Gardener.

SOUND: Wireless mics if desired.

LIGHTING: General stage.

SETTING: A hotel conference room

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BETH and KAREN ENTER together. They are both ready to enjoy the church's women's retreat.

BETH: So I told Jack, I said, “Honey. They are a whole year older now than they were for last year’s retreat. You can handle it. You’re bigger than they are.” I mean really. The man thinks nothing of making business deals worth hundreds of thousands of dollars and he’s terrified to be left alone with a couple of little kids.

KAREN: I know. But business deals don’t generally talk back ... or wet their pants ... or spill Kool-Aid on white carpeting ... or ...

BETH: Okay. I get your point. But I think this is good for him, and the kids will survive. And I really need the retreat this year. I was just so excited for a little me time, I don’t even know what the theme is this year!

SUSAN: *(ENTERING in the middle of BETH’s last sentence, she carries an enormous stack of books on gardening)* I’m all over it, Beth.

KAREN: Susan? Hi ... what’s with the ...

Before KAREN can finish her sentence, SUSAN cuts her off:

SUSAN: I felt like such an idiot last year because I thought we were having an actual spa day, that when I heard the theme was gardening this year, I wanted to be prepared. I have spent the last 10 days living at the library. I’m practically a horticulturist now. Go ahead—ask me anything.

BETH: *(Taking some of the books from SUSAN and setting them down)* That’s great, Susan. But I think they have a speaker who is going to talk to us about finding joy in our lives. She’s using a gardening theme ... like a metaphor. She talks about cultivating joy... she’s not going to talk about actually planting a garden.

SUSAN: Well, I’m ready for any metaphors she throws out, then. Do you think they have enough material with just the one speaker? Maybe I could do a break-out session on planting ornamental trees, shrubs, and flowers to improve your home’s curb appeal ...

KAREN: That’s a good idea, Susan, but I think they’ve pretty much got the schedule set. *(She is interrupted by MARGIE’S ENTRANCE.)*

MARGIE ENTERS, wearing a shirt that says “Master Gardener.” If feasible, she could also be wearing a gardening tool belt full of gardening tools and flower seed packets, gardening gloves, Crocs gardening shoes, and a gardening hat. The others are speechless.