

## OUT OF CONTROL

by JOHN COSPER

**GENRE:** Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** A young woman long estranged from her family calls her mother to reconnect, and to thank her for teaching her to turn to Christ.

**DIRECTOR'S NOTES:** The actress playing Helen should do a great deal of physical acting to convey her anxiety and nervousness in talking to her mother. Though her voice is calm, her body is not at first. This will heighten the tension and drama of the moment.

**TIME:** Under 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 1

**TOPIC:** Parenting, Family

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Proverbs 22:6

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Sermon Starter

**CHARACTERS:** HELEN - a young woman estranged from her family

**PROPS:** Modest apartment furniture; possibly a baby crib

**COSTUMES:** Modest used clothing for Helen

**SOUND:** One wireless microphone

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** A cheap apartment

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*The setting is HELEN'S very sparse, tiny apartment. HELEN has a moment of freedom since her infant son is asleep. She is on the phone, twisting the cord, very nervous.*

**HELEN:** Hello... Mom? Yes, it's me... I'm fine, Mom. Just fine. How are you and Dad? Really? Already? That's great, Mom. I'm so happy for him... Me? Well, I'm doing okay. I'm living in Ohio now... You know, I ask myself the same question ten times a day. "How did I ever end up in Ohio?"... No, it was a boy. He's gone now... Guess that's the way it always goes, right? But I made some friends, I found a job, and things seemed to be going fine.

I guess I should say, I thought things were fine. The people here are nothing like what I grew up with. You taught us to get a good education, plan a career, never settle. These people, they're nice, but they work for the weekend. Another paycheck, another night out. They don't drink too much, but they don't have anything better to do.

That's pretty much how I lived the first six months. Then something happened... Someone came into my life... No, I'm not married. Mom... Mom, I'm a mother... I had a baby about a month ago. Yes! His name is Jeffrey Scott, and he looks just like Dad's old baby pictures... He's so precious... Well, of course I can send you pictures... I just didn't think... I didn't know if you would be disappointed with me.

I guess that's true. I've been disappointed in me enough for the both of us. I was scared to death when I found out I was pregnant. The father... well, the man who helped me conceive was only in my life about a week, and I just couldn't bring myself to call you... Mom, you have to realize, as far gone as I was, I didn't think there was any chance you'd even take my call.

Yes, I'm calling you now, and here's why. Just before Jeffrey was born, I lost my roommate. Katie fell in love with one of the minor league baseball players, and when he got moved up, she moved up with him. Next thing I knew, the call center moved to India, I was out of a job, and rocking a baby. I couldn't talk to my usual friends because they didn't have time for a Mom, and I was terrified to call you. But one night, when Jeffrey had a blazing hot fever... I called on God. I started praying like I haven't done in years. By the morning, Jeffrey's fever was down, and I was about half-way done confessing all the crazy stuff I'd done since leaving home. I thought I could make it on my own. I thought I had an answer for everything. Now, I'm very grateful that Jesus can take control.

And that's why I had to call you. I'm relieved that you're not mad and you still love me. I love you too... and even if you didn't, I have you to thank for teaching me this: when life gets out of control, Jesus is still in control.