

PRUNING TIME

by SCOTT W. KIRK

GENRE: Comedy/Light Drama

SYNOPSIS: To help the audience learn that some things in life must be cut away so “fruit” can grow.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: It's important that the actors play Dad and Tracy as real, likeable people, not as a pair of goody-two-shoes. The message of the script is clear — make the acting subtle to avoid hitting your audience over the head with the point. Have the actors rehearse with the props so we believe they are actually pruning a tree.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Relationships, Family

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: John 15:1-3

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

CHARACTERS:

Dad ~ Age 45; committed to the spiritual welfare of his children

Tracy ~ Age 17-19; his daughter

PROPS: 1) Pruning shears
2) Gloves
3) Winter coat or vest
4) Plastic leaf bag
5) Small fruit tree made from a leafless tree branch

COSTUMES: Contemporary clothing, appropriate to character

SOUND: Two wireless mics; sound effect of a door slamming

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A family's backyard

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DAD examines branches on a tree in a methodical fashion, pruning with precise surgical care.

SFX: Offstage, a door slams shut.

TRACY ENTERS. She is sullen. It is obvious she just had a fight with someone.

DAD: Well, what brings you outside? *(He continues to work throughout the following dialogue.)*

TRACY: Mom!

DAD: Oh?

TRACY: She just yelled at me and said, "Go outside and cool off."

DAD: Because ...?

TRACY: I dunno.

DAD: What happened?

TRACY: *(Pause)* She won't let me go to Karen's party.

DAD: Karen? Is she the one with the blue hair and the tattoo or the one with the pierced nose and —

TRACY: Very funny.

DAD: Sorry.

TRACY: It's just not fair.

DAD: Why not?

TRACY: Dad, all my friends are going to be there.

DAD: I see. Did your mom tell you why she didn't want you to go?

TRACY: No!

DAD: When is it?

TRACY: Tonight.

DAD: If I remember correctly, the last time you went to a party on a Saturday night you were too tired to get up the next morning and go to church.