

## RUN FOR YOUR LIFE

by Paul Maley

**GENRE:** Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** To show how competitive and petty we can be, even in simple situations. This is a story of one-upmanship.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** This is a story of one-upmanship. To make it work, the author has included specific stage directions so that when one character is "winning," he pulls out ahead of the other runner. When he is "losing," he lags behind. The actors should jog in place, but we should have the feeling they're actually going somewhere. This sensation will be helped by the pulling ahead and lagging behind. Rehearse first with scripts to get the lines and emotions down. Then rehearse the jogging. Then put the two together and rehearse several more times. Note: Where the script refers to a "Lexus," feel free to substitute the name of the current trendy car. Also substitute the new model year three lines later.

**TIME:** Over 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 2

**TOPIC:** Anger

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Acts 20:24, 2 Corinthians 6:3-10

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Youth Services, Worship Services

**CHARACTERS:**

Dave-The younger of the two men, he is in better shape and slightly more confident

Bob-The older of the two by a few years, he is less healthy and more neurotic

**PROPS:** none

**COSTUMES:** Jogging attire

**SOUND:** Two wireless mics

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** Bare stage

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*DAVE and BOB jog onstage from opposite sides, and encounter each other center stage. They continue jogging in place, facing the audience. In the one-upmanship conversation that follows, when one man is “winning,” he pulls ahead of the other. When he is “losing,” he lags behind.*

**DAVE:** Morning, Bob.

**BOB:** Morning, Dave.

**DAVE:** How’s it going?

**BOB:** Oh, okay ... a little tired today. You?

**DAVE:** I feel great! I slept like a rock.

**BOB:** You did? *(He begins to drop back)*

**DAVE:** *(Picking up speed)* Yeah. Straight through! Then I woke up just before the alarm went off and I felt so refreshed and ready to face the day. It was great.

**BOB:** That so?

**DAVE:** Yep. Just great.

**BOB:** That’s great. *(Pause. He picks up speed)* So, uh ... any news yet?

**DAVE:** *(A little threatened)* “News”?

**BOB:** The baby department. You and Kathy have been trying for-what-practically a year now?

**DAVE:** *(Dropping back)* Nothing yet, Bob.

**BOB:** Well, *(with superiority)* you’ll have one someday.

**DAVE:** *(Catching up)* Then we’ll “catch up” to you and Cindy!

**BOB:** *(With relish)* Uh-uh. You’ll have to have twins to do that, I’m afraid.

**DAVE:** You mean-?

**BOB:** Number two is on the way!

**DAVE:** *(Drops back quickly, deflated)* Wow. Great.

**BOB:** So, we’re gonna be looking around for a bigger place, I guess.

**DAVE:** We’ll need to do that too, eventually.