

SOMETHING TO BELIEVE IN

by Stacy Barton

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: Mandy feels adrift in the world with nothing to believe in. She longs for earlier times when reassurance was found in a simple childhood Bible.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES: It's important that Mandy be someone to whom the audience can relate. If she's at all whiny or if she comes off as morbidly depressed, the audience will dismiss her words as having nothing to do with them. So do your homework as director and have the actor playing Mandy do hers: Break the monologue into beats (as defined in the December issue) and determine Mandy's objectives.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 1

TOPIC: Faith, Doubts

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Philippians 4:19

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Outreach service, Evangelism meeting, Youth meeting

CHARACTERS: Mandy – A young woman in her 20s

PROPS: None

COSTUMES: Casual, Contemporary clothing

SOUND: One wireless mike

LIGHTING: Soft light on the actor, preferably with the ability to fade out on the last line of the monologue

SETTING: An open stage

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Lights up on MANDY, a young woman in her 20s

MANDY: When I was little, I had this picture Bible. I know it's silly, it couldn't possibly help me now, not with my life the way it is ... you know ... complicated. But I loved this little book. It had a white leather cover that always smelled new; the pages were smooth and crinkly and their edges were gold, like they held some kind of treasure. I felt so proud when I carried it.

Inside there was this picture of Jesus. He had a little lamb across his shoulders. It was getting dark outside and he was just walking with this little lamb right next to his cheek, like there wasn't anything more important to him in the world. I used to rub my hand across his face. I just ached to have someone want me that badly ...

Oh you must think I'm so unenlightened to babble on about a Bible picture I saw ages ago, but I've just never forgotten it. So I keep looking, hoping for something to believe in, some reason to live ... but the truth is, most days I don't know how I am going to make it. Sometimes I wake up and I think I can't get through another day. But there it is, one more day ... waiting for me.

My neighbor is really into meditation. She spends hours repeating one word over and over. Evidently it doesn't matter what the word is, it's the "vibrations in the meditations" that are effective ...

I have a good friend who swears by some kind of fruit juice; he gets it from the tropics, says it cures anything! It worked on his daughter's warts, so now his aunt is using it for her depression ...

I talked to my brother on the phone the other day. He is a brilliant guy; he's been in school for years. He's studied everything there is to study about philosophy and religion, has his Ph.D. and every-thing. You know ... he used to like the picture in my little Bible, too ... but now he says there's nothing to believe in ... I hope he's wrong.

Lights softly fade to black.

..... Lights down.

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