

## THANKSGIVING

by Scott W. Kirk

**GENRE:** Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** It's Thanksgiving, and the family's all together to celebrate. But Brian is out on the deck, sulking. His brother, Jonathan, is getting on his nerves. This drama takes a realistic look at siblings — each of whom thinks the other is the “favorite son.”

**TIME:** Under 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 3

**TOPIC:** Communication, Thankfulness, Family

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Luke 15:11-32

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Thanksgiving

**CHARACTERS:**

Brian ~ The prodigal's brother  
Susan ~ Brian's wife  
Jonathan ~ The prodigal

**PROPS:** 1) A slice of pie on a plate  
2) A sweater for Susan (optional)

**COSTUMES:** Contemporary clothing, appropriate to character

**SOUND:** Three wireless mikes

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** The backyard or deck of Brian and Jonathan's childhood home

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### Director's Tip:

These brothers are taking the beginning steps toward learning to communicate with each other. Don't make the sketch end with everything between them resolved – that doesn't happen in real families. They have agreed to put their differences aside for tonight and to open lines of communication to discuss issues later. It's important that the audience get that sense from the actors' mood, body language and tone. If the brothers are all chummy as they exit, the audience will get the impression that their differences are all resolved and dismiss the sketch as unrealistic. If, on the other hand, there is still some palpable awkwardness between the two, the audience will get the point that differences can be overcome, but it takes time and effort.

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*BRIAN ENTERS and lets out a deep sigh. The noise from a party is heard in the distance.  
SFX: PARTY NOISE. After a beat, SUSAN ENTERS.*

**SUSAN:** What are you doing out here?

**BRIAN:** I needed a breath of fresh air.

**SUSAN:** Your brother just told the story about when you two threw a firecracker into your dad's truck and caught the seat on fire.

**BRIAN:** That was all Jonathan. I was inside watching TV.

**SUSAN:** It's really funny the way he tells it. You two must have been grounded for a month.

**BRIAN:** I was because it was my firecracker. As for my brother, as usual, he was given the extra helping of grace.

**SUSAN:** *(Pause)* Why don't you come inside? Your mom's getting ready to slice the pie.

**BRIAN:** I lost my appetite.

**SUSAN:** What's bugging you?

**BRIAN:** Not a thing.

**SUSAN:** You want to tell me or do I have to stand out here in the cold and watch you pout? *(Pause)* This isn't fair to your mom. She'll notice you left and start worrying.

**BRIAN:** I doubt she'll notice with Jonathan in the room.