

THE CHRISTIAN CRAWL

by RIKKI SCHWARTZ

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: A busy husband and father fails to abide by three key tenants of Christianity.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Though written to be a single performance, the vignettes could conceivably be performed as separate installments of a single story.

TIME: Over 10 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 4M (two are voiceover only), 2F

TOPIC: Christian Living, Failure

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Ephesians 4:29; Luke 17:3-4;
James 1:19-20

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Service focused on how we often feel like "failures" as Christians.

CHARACTERS:

SAUL

PASTOR (only a voice on a streaming video)

PEGGY (Saul's wife)

KAREN (Saul's co-worker)

RON (Saul's brother - only a voice on a speakerphone)

ZACH (Saul's 15-year-old-ish son)

PROPS: Peeled orange (or other soft fruit), gym bag, 2 sets of keys (one for wife and one for husband), Bible, sticky notepad and pen, laptop, briefcase, files/papers, landline (with speakerphone).

COSTUMES: Saul - business suit (including suit jacket and tie)

Peggy - Gym clothes, casual street clothes

Karen - Professional attire

Zach - casual street clothes

SOUND: 4 wireless mics if desired, and broadcast sound system for voiceovers. Music will play between the vignettes.

LIGHTING: Vignettes are lit individually

SETTING: A home, an office

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- VIGNETTE ONE: *Saul sits at dining room table wearing suit and tie; he is watching a streaming video on his laptop. A pad of sticky notes and a pen can be seen next to the laptop. Living room can be seen in the background, but it is only dimly lit. Bible seen on table next to him.*

PEGGY: *(enters in workout clothes, eating an orange or other soft fruit)* Hey – aren't you gonna be late?

SAUL: *(barely looks up)* No, my first meeting isn't until nine today.

PASTOR (V.O.): *(voice heard from streaming video on laptop – broadcast over the auditorium speakers)* So what does the Bible say about walking a righteous path?

PEGGY: *(while eating the fruit – looking over his shoulder at laptop screen)* Is that yesterday's service?

SAUL: Yeah – I wanted to watch it again, and put a couple more verses on the fridge that really struck a chord with me.

PEGGY: *(tongue-in-cheek, while gathering up her purse, keys etc.)* You're not thinking of "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord" again are you? Cuz I already told you – that one is generally taken grossly out of context. *(Smiling)*

SAUL: *(stops the playback – also speaking tongue-in-cheek)* Nope. But I was thinking of "It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife."

PEGGY: Touché. *(kisses him on the back of the head and exits with orange, gym bag and keys)* Have a good day, Sweetie. Love you.

She exits.

SAUL resumes watching playback.

PASTOR (V.O.): *...(playback starts a couple of seconds back from where he stopped it, so we hear again...)* ...about walking a righteous path. In Ephesians Chapter 4, Verse 29, Paul wrote: "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."
(beat) How many of us---

SAUL stops the playback and jots down the verse on a yellow sticky note, and sticks it to the table. When done, he forwards the playback to next section.

PASTOR (V.O.): ...especially during football season *(small sound bite of audience laughter heard?)* ...to come home to every day. *(Beat)* Finally, in Luke Chapter 17, Verses 3 and 4,