

## THE GOOD SON

by Rikki Schwartz

**GENRE:** Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** A father throws a lavish “coming home” party for one of his sons who had been gone for several years, gambling away all of the college money his father gave him, and then some. His older brother resents the party and his father’s forgiving attitude.

**TIME:** Over 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 2

**TOPIC:** Judging Others, Family

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

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Service focused on how we view sinners and God’s forgiveness, Sermon Illustration for The Prodigal Son

**CHARACTERS:**

DAVID – the prodigal son’s brother

MOM – the two sons’ MOM

**PROPS:** Plastic cup, cell phone

**COSTUMES:** Casual; dressed for a party for MOM

**SOUND:** Two wireless microphones

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** DAVID is seen alone in a study / den sipping something out of a plastic cup and watching “party” through downstage (invisible 4th wall) picture window. You can hear distant rumblings of the party he is watching.

**Drama Ministry**

service@DramaMinistry.com

www.DramaMinistry.com

ISSN 1084-5917

**Publisher: Regi Stone**

**Executive Editor: Kimberlee Crisafulli / Assistant Editor: Scott Crain**

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### Director's Tip:

The trick with directing a drama—especially one where close family members are arguing—is to keep it real and honest, and to find moments of levity. Yes, you read that correctly: levity. We want to engage the audience. We want them to identify with both mother and son in this drama. We want them to be moved to think of their own relationships and their own actions—either as the prodigal or as the “good” son. But we don’t want to depress them. We don’t want to turn them off. We don’t want to alienate them. So we need to give them a release—an opportunity to laugh. We’re not talking about a guffaw or a belly laugh. We’ll save those for the comedies. We’re talking a cathartic chuckle, a sympathetic smile, or a quiet, understanding laugh. It’s your job as director to help your actors deliver those moments to your audience.

**MOM:** *(Enters the study and sees DAVID)* There you are!

**DAVID:** *(Not very convincingly’ pulls his cell phone out of his pocket)* Yeah. I came in here to make a call. It’s kinda loud out there.

**MOM:** *(Looks at party through “window” with him; proudly)* Yeah. We had a good turn-out. I hope there’s enough food.

**DAVID:** *(Scoffs)* There’s enough food, Mom. I thought Dad was going to have to rent a U-Haul for the pig alone. *(Points downstage through “window.”)*

**MOM:** *(Chuckles slightly, but aware that DAVID is not happy)* Did you have any?

**DAVID:** *(Shakes his head)* I’m not much for “pig on a spit”, Mom. That’s Dad and Pete’s thing.

**MOM:** He looks good, don’t you think?

**DAVID:** *(Pretending to be obtuse)* The pig? No. He looks dead.

**MOM:** Pete looks good, don’t you think?

**DAVID:** *(Unenthusiastically)* Mm hmm.

**MOM:** We just need to get some more meat on his bones.

**DAVID:** Well, today’s a good start. *(Trying to get her out of the room)* Listen, I have to make that call... *(Weakly holds up cell phone)*

**MOM:** Oh. I thought you already made it.

**DAVID:** I have to make another one.