

## THE JESUS I WANT TO MEET

by LAURA CRAIN

**GENRE:** Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** The struggling mother of an autistic child longs for a meeting with the Jesus of the Gospels.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** Keep the tone personable, genuine, and down-to-earth for maximum effect.

**TIME:** 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 1F

**THEME:** Healing, Parenting

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Mark 10:46-52

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Sermon Starter

**CHARACTERS:**

NIKKI

**PROPS:** None

**COSTUMES:** Contemporary

**SOUND:** Wireless microphones (optional)

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** Unspecified

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*Lights up on NIKKI.*

NIKKI: I almost cried at church today. No, it wasn't a moving praise and worship song or a well-told story from the pulpit. I almost lost it during a cheesy kid's video about Jesus and the blind man.

We're visiting new churches. Not traditionally my favorite thing to do. It's significantly more challenging due to our oldest son's autism. For the past few weeks, I've been calling churches asking about their special needs children's programs. What they believe or practice hasn't really come up like, "You handle poisonous snakes? But, are they BIG snakes? Anyway, we found one that passed the interview process and we all piled in the SUV to go try it out.

Everyone was very friendly, but in a non-creepy sort of way. I ended up going with Carter to his class since it will take a few weeks to find him a "buddy" to accompany him. This was really an okay arrangement for me. To be honest, I prefer coloring and eating animal crackers to most worship services.

Carter looks just like most 4 year olds, but after a few minutes, some differences are apparent. He doesn't talk. He doesn't look at you when you talk. He makes strange noises (echolalia I think it's called). He often throws things with no warning (the guy at the next table at Famous Dave's could attest to this). The kids are four so they started asking me questions.

"Why doesn't he talk?"

"Well, he has autism."

"Umm, I don't know what that is."

"God made him a little different and he can't talk and he makes some funny noises but he is a lot like you – he likes to play just like you."

"Oh...does he have teeth?"

"Yes."

Now that all the important questions had been answered, the kids just seemed to accept the non-talking boy and his mom (who, by the way, was quickly discovered to be the best at coloring). We colored our sheet and ate the graham crackers and went into the "big room" for the video.

It was about Jesus healing the blind man. It was written for four year olds, but the main details were still there. Jesus had compassion on the man who was blind and he healed him. The man had a need and Jesus met that need. Nobody tried to tell the