

Light

Of

A

Clear Blue Morning

*Before The Brightest Sunrise
Falls The Darkest Midnight*

This script is an original creation by Brett Hadley and the Adventist Christian Theatre drama team. All scripture references are taken from the New International Version and the New American Standard Bible.

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THEME AND FOCUS:

When the subject of last day events come up, it is easy to focus on the religious persecution, catastrophic natural events and the war that Satan, “the dragon” will wage all around us. But before any of these things take place, the dragon’s biggest battle is already waging inside of us. The theme for this play is the spiritual battle of the last days. The focus is on the different issues people struggle over in that war, and though people’s battles may be different, the enemy and his intensity to conquer us all, is the same. Only when we are willing to, with courageous honesty, face our own needs and pain in the light of God’s love, do we experience the type of conversion that changes us, seals and prepares us, for Jesus’ second coming.

CHARACTERS:

Kevin

Bobby

Nicky

Gregg

Lori

Mr. Lawrence

4 Angels

Satan

5 Demons

CHARACTER SKETCHES

KEVIN

He is from a small town in Nebraska. Due to circumstances beyond his control (*no Christian school close to his home, personal finances*) He must go away to boarding school. He has a religious background and comes from a spiritual home. However, he is at the point in his life where he must "own" his own beliefs and not simply accept a "hand-me-down—religion." His internal struggle is over a belief in God and an understanding of who He is. He feels plagued with doubt and because his family is deeply spiritual, he feels guilty for having doubt. He is basically a good person who "appears" religious, but has a deep, silent conflict inside.

GREGG

Your basic M.T.V, heavy metal rock addict. He has a cynical outlook on all of life and is constantly listening and referring to philosophies stated in music. He is covering for an extreme self-image and self-worth problem. His parents are extremely conservative religionists. They have all the actions without the meaning. He doesn't know if God is really there or if He intervenes in people's lives. Is it Divine intervention or just chance?

LORI

Always in a relationship. Something obvious to others, but unknown to her, is she has to be with a guy or she doesn't feel complete. Her relationships tend not to last long. She changes boyfriends as often as she changes socks. She has a self-worth problem that stems from the fact her father left home when she was very young. Since then her mother has been through a series of marriages to men who didn't stick around very long. She is playful and laughing on the outside, but empty of solid, meaningful relationships inside.

NIKKI

A very sweet, seemingly innocent and childlike girl. She is nice to everyone she meets and goes out of her way to help the underdog. She keeps her outward appearance simple, but pretty. She doesn't like to see anyone upset or hurt, and does not allow herself those emotions. The mask she wears out front hides the family life she comes from; Nikki is a victim of child abuse. Her father is an alcoholic and frequently is taken over by rage. He physically and emotionally abuses her. She, instead of being angry, believes she deserves the punishment she gets. She does not believe she deserves to receive love from anyone; parents, friends or God. Her battle is reconciling an abusive past that has filled her with shame and guilt, with a loving God.

BOBBY

The only one who has a true picture of God. He is not well accepted by the other students and is kind of an outcast, although he is oblivious to this. He is very in tune with who he is and how God's love reaches to all people and He is enthusiastic to share this with everyone. Bobby has great wisdom and insight that comes out in very simple, but profound, statements that most people brush off. They do this because Bobby is mildly mentally retarded. He is also physically disabled in that he was born

with weak lungs (*he must use an inhaler*) and a weak heart. He carries a small teddy bear with him everywhere he goes that represents, to him, the childlike faith that he has with God. Even if he doesn't understand everything that happens, he falls back on that trust. His mother gave him the bear when he was a little child, and now it reminds him to follow what Jesus said in "except you become as little children, you shall not enter the kingdom of Heaven." What people do not realize is that to Bobby, the bear represents his real "inner-child" and when they make fun of it, they are making fun of him.

MR. LAWRENCE

An academy Bible teacher. He is deeply concerned about his students and is convicted that the spiritual battle of the last days has already begun. He attempts to reach some of his "problem" students by unifying them into a group working for a common goal: help build a student chapel. He hopes that this experience might open them up to each other, talking about their issues, and in so doing open them up to God's influence.

SATAN

A mastermind and genius of deception. He has trapped all the characters into looking away from God to other things to fill or cover their needs and pain. He is logical about his approaches on his victims until he begins to lose control of them. He then is taken to rash acts in an attempt to regain control that sometimes ends in pushing his victims to far and into God's hands.

DEMONS

Obviously Satan's henchmen. They do his bidding. Their voices seethe with evil and they live only to entrap and torture human victims. Sneaky and skulking are their key personality traits and movements.

ANGELS

Always present, always deeply concerned about their "charges" but taking their direction straight from God's throne room. They do only as much as they are directed to and when a victim of Satan's attacks cries out to God they are instantly present. They allow Satan his way only as God allows it, and when it's time to draw the line, they do so with the power of the wrath of God against sin.

ACT-I

Scene-I

OPENING SCENE:

“Calling Out Your Name” by Rich Mullins is already playing. Light comes up on stage right to reveal Kevin’s bedroom in Nebraska. He is obviously sad and is packing to leave. As he packs, he picks up a picture of himself with his parents. He sits on bed and stares at the picture for a long moment. His mother enters from the darkness of stage left. She carries a big lunch bag and is on the brink of tears. Music fades to very low so voices can be heard over it.

MOTHER:

I packed you some lunch to take along on the bus.

KEVIN:

Thanks mom, you didn’t have to do that.

MOTHER:

It’s gonna be a long trip and I don’t want you having to spend your money on junk food and soda. *(SHE STARTS TO FOLD A SHIRT AND PACK FOR HIM)* Besides, I’ve been making your lunches since you were old enough to go to school and now that your going away I won’t be there anymore to...to...*(BEGINS TO CRY)* Your just gonna have to take care of yourself.

KEVIN:

(HUGS HER) It’s O.K. mom. I know your always gonna be there.

FATHER:

(ENTERS FROM STAGE LEFT. CLEARS THROAT) Can I come in?

KEVIN:

(SURPRISED) Dad, yeah.

FATHER:

Looks like your almost packed.

KEVIN:

Yeah, I’ve just got a few more things to throw together. *(PICKS UP A SMALL STACK OF BOOKS, ONE IS A BIBLE)*

FATHER:

(TAKES BIBLE FROM STACK) You won’t be needing this.

KEVIN:

But dad, that’s my Bible. How can I—

FATHER:

I want you to take this one.

KEVIN:

Your Bible? But dad, it's been in the family for years. I can't take this, what if I lost it or something happened to it, or—

FATHER:

(THEY ALL SIT ON BED) My grandfather owned this Bible and when my father was ready to go out on his own he gave it to him. Then, when I was old enough to leave home my father gave it to me. Now it's your turn. Take it with you and it will always remind you of where your roots are. There's a lot of history in this Bible. It's promises saw this family through a lot of hard times and a lot of tears. Always remember son, there is nothing so dangerous as forgetting where you came from.

KEVIN:

I don't want to go dad. It's too far away.

FATHER:

I know you don't son. But who knows that God isn't taking you to this place because He needs you there. *(STANDS)* Your mother and I will always be with you; in spirit and in prayer.

(ALL THREE STAND IN A CIRCLE WITH ARMS AROUND EACH OTHER. LIGHTS FADE OUT AND SLIDES/NARRARATION COME ON)

1. The greatest sign that we are living in the last days is not found in the book of Revelation.
2. You cannot see it in the sun, moon or stars,
3. And it is not the wars or rumors of wars between the governments of this world.
4. The battle is within you.
5. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, the authorities, the powers of this dark world,
7. and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
8. The only way to win is to surrender,
9. The only way to live is to die.
10. And when it feels as though you have no hope. . .remember,
11. Before the brightest sunrise
12. Falls the darkest midnight.

ACT-I

Scene-II

OPENING:

A school bell rings and lights come up stage right showing a classroom scene. Students are standing around and having pre-class conversation. Kevin is obviously by himself and not a part of the crowd.

Lori:

(COMES RUNNING IN) Was that the second bell?

Nikki:

Yeah, I think it was.

Lori:

Well where's Mr. Lawrence? Is he here?

Nikki:

(SHRUGS) I don't know, haven't seen him. Maybe we're not having class.

Lori:

(TAPS GREG ON THE SHOULDER WHO IS LISTENING TO HIS WALKMAN AND OBVIOUSLY ENJOYING THE MUSIC) Hey Greg! *(NO RESPONSE)* Earth to Greg... *(STILL NO RESPONSE. SHE PICKS UP HIS WALKMAN, PUSHES THE MIKE BUTTON AND YELLS)* Yo! Metal head!

Greg:

AAAAAGGGHHH! Do you realize you could have busted my eardrums!

Lori:

It wouldn't be any worse than the deafening decibels on your death rock. How can you listen to that stuff?

Greg:

It relaxes me.

Lori:

Whatever. *(DRAWS IT OUT)* Has Mr. Lawrence been in yet?

Greg:

Who?

Lori:

Our Bible teacher, hello!

Greg:

Class just started, it'll be another 10 minutes before he'll show up. He's late to everything.

Lori:

Great. I thought I was going to be late and I can't afford another tardy or I'll get suspended.

Nikki:

Well when you stop to talk to every guy in the hall before class what do you expect?

Lori:

It's called priorities, and men are higher than class.

Kevin:

(SHY, WALKING UP TO THE GROUP) Hi. *(ALL MUMBLE "HI")*

Nikki:

Aren't you the new kid from Kansas?

Kevin:

Yeah, but it's Nebraska.

Greg:

Nebraska! People still live there? I thought it was just a state full of corn.

Lori:

(HITS HIM) Of course people live there. Didn't you take Geography?

GREGG:

Slept through it.

LORI:

Why did you come way out here? We're a long way from Nebraska!

KEVIN:

It's a long story. I'm just glad I could come to a Christian school.

GREGG:

Man, you've been shucking corn too long.

NIKKI:

Well, welcome to our school. Good impression on your first day, the teachers late.

GREGG:

He's always late.

LORI:

To everything. You can almost set your watch by it.

GREGG:

He'll be late to his own funeral.

(MR. LAWRENCE ENTERS UNNOTICED)

LORI:

He'll be late to the Second Coming.

MR. LAWRENCE:

No man, or woman, knows the day or hour of His coming, so that is the one thing I can not be late for. My apologies everyone. Please have a seat and lets get started. *(EVERYONE SITS. KEVIN SITS IN THE BACK)*. I'm late because I stopped by the office to get your test results back from yesterday's exam. It is obvious to me that most of you seem to have had a struggle with the material we've covered. So were going to take a little more time and go over it again.

(EVERYONE MOANS)

GREGG:

C'mon Mr. Lawrence, we couldn't have done that bad. I know I studied.

MR. LAWRENCE:

Gregg, I asked what book in the Bible came after First Peter. Do you remember your answer?

GREGG:

Revelation?

MR. LAWRENCE:

My point exactly.

GREGG:

(TO KIDS AROUND HIM) it does doesn't it? It comes after all the books!

MR. LAWRENCE:

Anyway, does anyone remember our topic? *(SILENCE. KIDS LOOK AROUND)*. We were talking about the history of the early Christian church and the early history of our own church. It was Peter and Paul, along with the other disciples, who began the first Christian church and spread it like wild fire over the world they knew. Nothing could stop these guys short of death. And that is exactly what happened to most of them. *(STUDENTS BEGIN PUTTING HEADS DOWN ON DESKS, ACTING BORED, FALLING ASLEEP. AFTER A BEAT OR TWO, GREG BEGINS SNORING)* And I don't mean of old age. Many of them died pretty torturous deaths. You gotta ask yourself what made these guys so on fire for the gospel that they were willing to die for their beliefs? Was it just a set of fundamental doctrines they had studied out? A theology they all agreed on?

KEVIN:

No. Who'd be willing to die for that?

MR. LAWRENCE:

What do you think it was?

KEVIN:

The one to one experience they all had with Jesus.

MR. LAWRENCE:

Right! By the way everybody, this is Kevin, a new student who will be joining us this semester. Good observation Kevin. And no one is a better example of that than Paul. He was a Pharisee and the kind of person who lived just for a code of ethics. All the outward show and none of the inward fire. But after he had a one to one experience with Jesus on the Damascus road he was changed forever. It was the same way with our Adventist pioneers. It was their personal experience with Jesus, and the gospel, that gave them the fire to work and sacrifice to start this church. And the cost for some of them were their entire lives devoted to the cause. Looking at these people we have to ask ourselves, where is the fire of Paul today? Is the flame of our church founders burned out? *(OBVIOUS SILENCE)* Who can tell me what was the main message our church was founded on? *(KEVIN, AFTER A FEW MOMENTS, RAISED HIS HAND)* Yes, Kevin.

KEVIN:

End of the world and the Second Coming of Jesus.

MR. LAWRENCE:

Right.

GREGG:

(GETTING EXCITED) All right! Last day events. Now you're talking. That's exciting stuff! How the government is gonna take over the world, torture and kill everyone who doesn't follow their world religion, plagues all over the place!

MR. LAWRENCE:

That is exactly what most people think of when someone mentions Revelation or last day events. But there is more to it than that.

LORI:

Why are people so uptight about the last days? We've got it made! We know all the signs, we know what to look for. I figure that when the government starts to make Sunday laws or I see the pope being elected president, I'll believe we're living in the last days.

MR. LAWRENCE:

That's exactly how a lot of people relate to the Second Coming. But there's a problem with that philosophy. Anyone know what?

NIKKI:

If you wait till those things happen, it'll be too late to "instantly convert".

MR. LAWRENCE:

That's true. For those people who try to wait until they see the outward signs of last day events, their battle is already lost.

GREGG:

You mean the battle of armagelletin? Alarmaleggin? Alarma—

MR. LAWRENCE:

Armageddon?

GREGG:

Yeah, that's it. I hear that's a new tune by Metallica.

MR. LAWRENCE:

No, not that battle. It's very east to focus on Satan's, or "the dragon's" battle on the outside. But before any of those things happen, his battle for you on the inside, your heart and mind, will have already been fought. He's not waiting till the end to fight for your soul. He wages war on you now. (*BELL RINGS*) O.K. That's all the time we have for today. We'll pick it up here tomorrow. (*EVERYONE BEGINS TO LEAVE*) Gregg, Lori, Nikki and Kevin. Please stay by. (*AFTER EVERYONE EXITS*) Can anybody guess what the three of you have in common?

GREGG:

Were your favorite students?

MR. LAWRENCE:

Except for Kevin, you're all failing my class. I've come up with an idea for an extra-credit project that can majorly help salvage your grades.

LORI:

What is it?

MR. LAWRENCE:

You know the new student chapel that were adding on to the school? Well, it's supposed to be built entirely by the students, and right now there is no one willing to work on it. You guys could do a really good thing for your school and help your grades out at the same time. What do you say?

GREGG:

What's the other option?

MR. LAWRENCE:

Spend another year with me.

GREGG:

I see hammers in my future.

MR. LAWRENCE:

Good. Are we all agreed? (*THEY NOD WITHOUT ENTHUSIASM*) Well then, lets all plan to spend some time after school for the next few days working together. I'll see you there today after last period.

LORI:

(AS THEY EXIT) Great. Just how I wanted to spend my afternoons, doing manual labor.

GREGG:

Hey, look at the bright side. Think of all the time you'll be spending with me.

LORI:

(SARCASTIC) I feel so much better.

LORI TURNS AND EXITS. GREGG TAKES A BEAT THEN GOES AFTER HER FOR MORE CONVINCING)

MR. LAWRENCE:

Kevin. You don't have to do this if you don't want. I just thought it might give you a chance to get to know some of these guys a little better.

KEVIN:

Yeah, it sounds good. My dad and I have built a lot of stuff around our farm together.

MR. LAWRENCE:

Good. I'm not sure Gregg knows which end of a hammer to use and Lori thinks a 2x4 stud is a really good-looking short guy. I'll see you at the chapel. Thanks. *(KEVIN EXITS. SITS AT DESK)* Dear God, I'm worried. I'm scared for these kids. Satan surrounds him with all his devices to turn their eyes and ears away from you and what he's doing. I don't know how to reach them. God, send your angels and the Holy Spirit. Open these kids up to themselves and each other. Help them see their need and your love for them. Fight for them. Fight for us all. Cause without you God, our battle is lost. Thank You. In Jesus' name.

(HE FREEZES. SATAN AND FOUR DEMONS ENTER)

SATAN:

Well, well, well. What do we have here? A soldier for the Enemy. A very noble prayer, warrior. Do you not realize that the battle already belongs to me? Can you not see that I have already won your class to apathy? Of course you don't know how to reach them because they are beyond your grasp. They belong to me! And I intend to keep it that way. Guilt! Despair! Apathy! Fear! *(DEMONS COME IMMEDIATELY TO HIS SIDE)* We have a strong hold on these little ones, but let's not be careless. I know that the Enemy waits in disgusting patience not wanting to lose anyone. And all He needs is one prayer warrior to work things He otherwise would not be able to do. Watch close our charges and keep them blinded to their needs. We don't want them looking too closely at their true selves. It may be just enough to drive them to the Enemy's waiting arms.

ACT-I

Scene-III

OPENING:

Lights come up on stage right to reveal a student chapel under construction; framework, paint cans and brushes, hammers and nails, etc. Gregg, Lori, Nikki, and Kevin all enter from stage right. Kids look around shaking their heads in disbelief.

GREGG:

This is it?

LORI:

I broke a date with Steve for this?

NIKKI:

I've seen worse.

GREGG:

Only in third world countries. Maybe failing Bible isn't all that bad. Can you still get into Heaven if you fail Bible?

LORI:

I don't think it's a prerequisite.

KEVIN:

This isn't so bad. Back on the farm Dad and I had some great times building stuff together.

(ALL REACT UNENTHUSIASTICLY)

GREGG:

Well, we aren't in Kansas anymore. Bonding at this school, or in a cornfield, is not my idea of fun. *(PICKS UP A PAINT BRUSH AND USES IT AS A DRUMSTICK BEATING AN IMAGINARY RHYTHM)*

MR. LAWRENCE:

(ENTERS FROM STAGE RIGHT) All right, everybody's here. Lets get started. Gregg, I see you found the paintbrushes. Good. You can be our resident Picassos. Lori, you can help him. Have you ever painted anything before?

GREGG:

(JUMPS IN BEFORE SHE CAN ANSWER) Only her nails.

(LORI GIVES HIM A "DROP DEAD" LOOK)

MR. LAWRENCE:

Close enough. Why don't you start by opening the cans and stirring the paint. Nikki and Kevin, y'all get some hammers and nails and lets finish these frames.

(ALL BEGIN TO GO TO THEIR AREAS. GREGG TAKES A BRUSH TO THE STAGE LEFT WALL AND JUST STARES AT IT. NIKKI GRABS A HAMMER AND KNEELS AT THE UPSTAGE WALL. KEVIN AND LORI MOVE DOWNSTAGE TO GET A PAINT CAN AND HAMMER AT THE SAME TIME. JUST AS THEY REACH, LORI'S CELLULAR PHONE RINGS)

KEVIN:

What's that?

LORI:

It's my phone. Don't y'all have phones in Nebraska?

KEVIN:

Yeah but their usually on a wall or something.

LORI:

(SHAKES HER HEAD) Hello? Oh Steve! Hi! *(TO KEVIN)* Kevin, can you stir my paint for me?

KEVIN:

But—

LORI:

Thanks. *(TO PHONE)* You'll never guess where I'm at. *(FADES UP-STAGE AND HAS CONVERSATION)*

MR. LAWRENCE:

(APPROACHES GREGG FROM BEHIND WHO IS STILL JUST STARING AT THE WALL)
You see Gregg, the way it works is the paintbrush moves up and down, not the wall.

GREGG:

I'm waiting for inspiration.

MR. LAWRENCE:

You cover this wall in one coat today and I'll bump you up to a "D-".

GREGG:

I've had a vision!

LORI:

(COMES BACK TO KEVIN) Well, where were we. Oh yeah, paint stirring.

KEVIN:

I'll tell you what, you take this can— *(PHONE RINGS)*

LORI:

Oops! Sorry. Hello? Mark! I've been waiting all day for you to call me. *(FADES BACK TO DOWNSTAGE. KEVIN SHAKES HIS HEAD)*

(EVERYONE WORKS FOR A FEW MOMENTS AND THEN BOBBY ENTERS FROM STAGE RIGHT)

BOBBY:

Hi guys! Watcha doin'?

(EVERYONE SOFTLY MOANS)

MR. LAWRENCE:

Were building a chapel Bobby.

BOBBY:

Really? Can I help?

MR. LAWRENCE:

Sure. Why don't you help Nikki pound a few nails.

GREGG:

You sure you want to give him a hammer?

NIKKI:

(REPROVINGLY) Gregg!

BOBBY:

I can do it guys! I'll try real hard. *(START TO HELP NIKKI AND WORKS WITH OBVIOUS CONCERTED EFFORT)*

LORI:

(HANGING UP AND REJOINING KEVIN) What a sweet guy.

KEVIN:

You sure get a lot of phone calls.

LORI:

Price you pay for popularity.

KEVIN:

Well, if your ready, I've got some paint that—

(PHONE RINGS AGAIN. THIS TIME, AS LORI ANSWERS, MR. LAWRENCE COMES OVER AND TAKES THE PHONE FROM LORI)

MR. LAWRENCE:

(LIKE AN ANSWERING MACHINE) Hello. I'm sorry Lori can't come to the phone right now, but she's putting make-up on the new student chapel. Please leave your name and number with someone else because her social calendar is booked for the next few days. Thank you, good-bye. *(HANGS UP PHONE AND KEEPS IT)*

LORI:

You could ruin me socially.

MR. LAWRENCE:

Now is not the time to reach out and touch someone. Let's keep to task, shall we?

(BANG IS HEARD AND BOBBY CRIES OUT)

BOBBY:

Owwwwwwwww! *(ALMOST BEGINS TO CRY)*

NIKKI:

Oh Bobby, are you O.K.

GREGG:

(JUMPING IN) I told you not to give him a hammer. Who lets retards use hammers?

NIKKI:

We gave you a paintbrush didn't we?

MR. LAWRENCE:

Bobby, How about you walk around and make sure everyone has company. That'll get your mind off your finger.

BOBBY:

O.K. Mr. Lawrence. *(BEGINS TO CHEER UP)* I'll go see Lori. I know she likes guys.
(WHISPERS TO HIM) Maybe we can be friends.

MR. LAWRENCE:

Good idea.

(BOBBY MAKES HIS WAY TO LORI. AS HE DOES, LIGHTS GO DOWN ON SCENE, EVERYONE FREEZES. SPOT COMES UP ON BOBBY AND LORI)

BOBBY:

Hi!

LORI:

(FRIENDLY, BUT NOT THRILLED) Hi Bobby, how are you?

BOBBY:

I'm O.K. I hurt my finger, see? *(PUTS IT CLOSE TO HER FACE)*

LORI:

Yeah, yeah, I see.

BOBBY:

How are you?

LORI:

Oh I'm walking on air.

BOBBY:

You don't look very happy. What's wrong?

LORI:

This just isn't one of the things I wanted to do today Bobby. *(TO HERSELF)* Or ever for that matter.

BOBBY:

What did you want to do today?

LORI:

(SOMEWHAT BRIGHTER) Well, first of all I was going to go out with Steve after school, but only to the mall for awhile because I had a date tonight with Mark. We were going to dinner and an early movie. Early because I had to be in by 9:30.

BOBBY:

Cause you have a curfew?

LORI:

No! Because that's when Jim gets home from work and I can call him. But we only talk for an hour or so because I've got to get a hold of Lisa, my friend, and fill her in on all the details of my dates. Then I have to search through the mountain of catalogues I've subscribed to so I know where to shop for clothes.

BOBBY:

My mom and me get my clothes at Good Will! They have lots of stuff.

LORI:

That's, um, nice. But to keep up I shop at Gap, The Limited, Old Navy--

BOBBY:

(EXCITED) My cousin was in the Navy! *(CONFUSED)* But he wasn't very old...

LORI:

Right. But for the best looks, Express, Saks and Victorias Secret are a girl's best friend.

BOBBY:

I don't know Victoria. And my mom says it's not nice to keep secrets.

LORI:

When I get done I have just enough time to crash so I can be at school by 6:30.

BOBBY:

But school doesn't start till 8:00.

LORI:

I know that. But the basketball team practices from 6:30-8:00. Guys love it when they think girls are checkin' em' out and I've got my own first string to pick , if you know what I mean.

BOBBY:

Wow, you sure do a lot of stuff and talk to a lot of people.

LORI:

Yeah, I guess so. A girls' gotta keep busy.

BOBBY:

(INNOCENTLY, BUT WITH ENTHUSIASM) But you haven't talked to the most important person!

LORI:

Oh, and who's that?

BOBBY:

Your dad.

LORI:

My dad? The guy my moms married to isn't my real dad. The last three guys she's married aren't my real dad. My real dad left when I was just a kid and I don't know where he is.

BOBBY:

I do.

LORI:

You do huh? Where?

BOBBY:

He's in Heaven.

LORI:

Heaven? Why would he be in Heaven?

BOBBY:

That's where God lives. He's everybody's Dad. When do you talk to Him?

LORI:

(UNCOMFORTABLE) I guess I usually don't.

BOBBY:

Oh I start everyday with Him. Me and Bear get up eearly in the morning and say "Hi God! It's me and Bear--"

LORI:

That's nice Bobby. Why don't you go talk to Gregg or something?

BOBBY:

(CONFUSED) O.K. See ya Lori.

(SHE WAVES HIM OFF. BOBBY LEAVES LORI AND SPOT FADES OUT. AS BOBBY JOINS GREGG A SPOT FADES UP ON THEM. EVERYONE ELSE STILL FROZEN. BOBBY CROSSES OVER TO WHERE GREGG IS PAINTING. SOLO SPOT COMES UP ON THEM. GREGG IS LISTENING TO MUSIC WITH HIS WALKMAN ON. BOBBY COMES FROM BEHIND HIM AND GETS HIS ATTENTION BY HAVING BEAR TAP ON GREGG'S SHOULDER. GREGG TRIES TO IGNORE BOBBY, BUT BOBBY KEEPS USING HIS BEAR TO GET GREGG'S ATTENTION. FINALLY GREGG GIVES IN)

GREGG:

(WITH A SIGH) Hi Bobby.

BOBBY:

Hey Gregg! Watcha doin'?

GREGG:

Brain surgery. Whats it look like I'm doing?

BOBBY:

It looks like your painting a wall.

GREGG:

And people say your retarded.

BOBBY:

That's why mom says I'm so special.

GREGG:

I guess you could call it that.

BOBBY:

Painting sure looks fun. Can Bear and I try it?

GREGG:

(CATCHING ON TO THE POSSIBILITIES) Uh, sure! Sure thing Bobby! Be my guest.

(HANDS HIM THE BRUSH. BOBBY HOLDS THE BRUSH WITH BEARS ARMS AND PAINTS. HE LAUGHS WITH JOY AT HIS ACCOMPLISHMENT)

BOBBY:

This is fun! I'm a good painter, aren't I Gregg?

GREGG:

Oh yeah. You're a natural. You and your bear make a great team. But to be a real painter you gotta listen to your tunes.

BOBBY:

Tunes?

GREGG:

Yeah, you know; music-songs.

BOBBY:

Oh yeah, Bear and me know some good songs, don't we Bear? We'll sing one.

(BOBBY SINGS "JESUS LOVE THE LITTLE CHILDREN" WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM)

GREGG:

(STOPPING HIM) Yeah, yeah, yeah, that's real good Bobby. But I mean real tunes.

BOBBY:

Do you know some songs Gregg?

GREGG:

Sure. You wanna hear? *(BOBBY NODS ENTHUSIASTICLY)* O. K., here, put these on. *(HANDS BOBBY HEADPHONES. BOBBY PUTS THEM ON HIS BEAR AND MAKES HIM DANCE. GREGG TAKES THE BEAR FROM BOBBY)* Not like that kind of music, it's more like this. *(GREGG MAKES THE BEAR ACT LIKE A HEAD-BANGER)*

BOBBY:

Stop! *(TAKES THE BEAR BACK)* You'll hurt Bear.

GREGG:

Now you try it Bobby. *(PUTS HEADPHONES ON BOBBY. GREGG SHOWS THE WALKMAN AND HITS PLAY. WHEN HE DOES, BOBBY'S EYES GET REAL BIG AND HE GRIMACES LIKE HE IS IN GREAT PAIN)*

BOBBY:

AAAAAAAhh! *(THROWS OFF HEADPHONES)*

GREGG:

So, did you like it?

BOBBY:

There was an angry man on there yelling at me!

GREGG:

Yeah, it's great, isn't it?

BOBBY:

Why is he so loud?

GREGG:

The louder the better.

BOBBY:

Well, why is he so angry?

GREGG:

Because his parents told him there's a God and he found out there really isn't.

BOBBY:

But there is! There really is God! I now cause we've met.

GREGG:

Yeah, well I've never heard him.

BOBBY:

How could you hear Him with that angry man yelling at you?

GREGG:

God's got nothing to say to me that I want to hear.

BOBBY:

But He does! He has lots to say. He says (*GREGG PUTS ON HEAD PHONES*) I love you and I made all the flowers for you and He's got songs like (*SINGS*) Jesus loves the little children...all the...children...Gregg? Gregg? Hello?

(BOBBY SLOWLY BACK AWAY FROM GREGG AND CROSSES TO NIKKI)

BOBBY:

Hi Nikki!

NIKKI:

Hi Bobby. You come back to pound a few more nails?

BOBBY:

Uh-uh. My finger still hurts.

NIKKI:

Awwww. I'm sorry. You can just sit and watch me.

BOBBY:

O.K.! (*PAUSE*) Nikki?

NIKKI:

Yeah?

BOBBY:

Thanks for sticking up for me when Gregg called me a retard.

NIKKI:

That's O.K. Bobby. People shouldn't call other people names.

BOBBY:

Yeah. Sometimes other people make fun of me too. It hurts my feelings.

NIKKI:

Well they just don't know how special you are.

BOBBY:

You really think so?

NIKKI:

Sure.

BOBBY:

I like you Nikki. You're nice.

NIKKI:

I like you too Bobby.

BOBBY:

Nikki?

NIKKI:

Yeah?

BOBBY:

Do people ever make fun of you?

NIKKI:

Sometimes.

BOBBY:

What do you do?

NIKKI:

Nothing.

BOBBY:

Nothing? But, doesn't it hurt your feelings too?

NIKKI:

Yeah, a little.

BOBBY:

You should stick up for yourself.

NIKKI:

(MORE TO HERSELF THAN BOBBY) Sometimes sticking up for yourself gets you hurt worse than if you just take it.

BOBBY:

Oh, I know! You need someone bigger than you to take care of you.

NIKKI:

That certainly might help.

BOBBY:

God'll stick up for you Nikki. Just like I have to stick up for Bear some times, God'll stick up for you. He's bigger than everybody.

NIKKI:

(AGAIN, MORE TO HERSELF THAN BOBBY) God isn't always there Bobby. Sometimes God doesn't stop bad things from happening. Sometimes God doesn't stop people from getting hurt. Sometimes you have to just know your gonna get hurt and live with it because God doesn't *(POUNDS A NAIL WITH EACH WORD)* always answer prayers.

(SILENCE)

BOBBY:

One time, on my way home from school, some mean boys saw me. They took Bear away and pushed me down and called me bad names and laughed at me and hit me. I prayed to God for help.

NIKKI:

(LIKE SHE KNOWS ALREADY) And they stopped hitting you, right?

BOBBY:

No. But God sat next to me in the circle and cried with me. *(PAUSE. THEN BRIGHTER)* And the next time I saw em, I went home another way and they haven't bothered me since.

NIKKI:

I wish I could go home another way. You're a lot smarter than people think Bobby. I only wish life were as simple as you make it out to be.

(LIGHTS COME UP ON WHOLE SCENE)

MR. LAWRENCE:

Allright everybody that's enough for today. Let's go home.

GREGG:

Paroled at last!

MR. LAWRENCE:

Make sure you put everything up where you can find it tomorrow. *(STOPS LORI AS SHE EXITS AND GIVES HER THE PHONE BACK)* Here Lori, you might want to leave this at home tomorrow.

LORI:

I'll put it in my locker with my answering machine.

(MR. LAWRENCE SHAKES HIS HEAD IN DISBELIEF. ALL EXIT EXCEPT KEVIN AND BOBBY. KEVIN IS CLOSING PAINT CANS AND TRIES TO PICK THEM ALL UP AND PUT THEM AGAINST THE CHAPEL WALL. BOBBY COMES OVER TO HELP HIM. LINES CONTINUE AS THEY PUT THINGS AWAY, EVENTUALLY THEY END UP SITTING DOWNSTAGE)

BOBBY:

I'll help you.

KEVIN:

(HANDS HIM SOME CANS) Thanks.

BOBBY:

I know you. You're new here.

KEVIN:

Yeah, I am.

BOBBY:

I heard your from Kansas. Do you live close to Dorothy and Toto and Aunt Em?

KEVIN:

Actually, I'm from Nebraska. And the Wizard of Oz was just a movie.

BOBBY:

I know. I saw it seven times. It's my favorite. Where's Nebraska?

KEVIN:

From here? Go to Dorothy's house and turn right. Keep going till all you see is corn and your there.

BOBBY:

(CONFUSED) Sounds like a long ways away.

KEVIN:

(THOUGHTFULLY) It is.

BOBBY:

Why are you here? Are you lost?

KEVIN:

(TO SELF) It feels like it sometimes. No, there weren't any Christian schools close to my house so I had to go away to school. I've got some relatives that live here so I'm staying with them.

BOBBY:

Oh. Well I'm Bobby!

KEVIN:

Hi Bobby, I'm Kevin.

BOBBY:

And this is Bear. *(HOLDS HIS BEAR UP)*

KEVIN:

Uh, hi Bear.

BOBBY:

If you want we can be your friends! Everybody needs friends. Especially when you're new.

KEVIN:

Yeah, I guess you're right. O.K., lets be friends.

BOBBY:

Gregg and Mike and Lori are all my friends too.

KEVIN:

(SURPRISED) They are?

BOBBY:

Yeah. Just sometimes they forget.

KEVIN:

Why do you carry your bear around with you?

BOBBY:

Oh next to God, Bear is my best friend.

KEVIN:

He is, huh?

BOBBY:

Mmm uh. When I was a little kid my mommy gave him to me. She read me the story from the Bible where Jesus said that Heaven was gonna have nothin but kids in it.

KEVIN:

What?

BOBBY:

Yeah, Jesus said that unless we all are like little kids, we can't get into Heaven. Do you know what that means? Do ya? Huh, do ya?

KEVIN:

Uh, no.

BOBBY:

It means that God is gonna take care of all of us cause we're his little kids and we need him to look out for us. Just like when I was little my mom took care of me and I knew she would cause I was her little kid and trusted her for everything.

KEVIN:

Yeah, I guess that does make sense.

BOBBY:

And you know those signs they have on roller coasters that say you have to be this tall to get on?

KEVIN:

Yeah?

BOBBY:

Well they're gonna have that in Heaven only it's gonna say you have to be this short and be a little kid to get in. *(LAUGHS AT HIS OWN JOKE)* I just made that part up. But bear reminds me to always be a little kid. He is me when I was a little kid cause people make fun of him just like they made fun of me.

KEVIN:

Oh, I see. Well Bear is lookin' kinda raggedy, why don't you get a new one?

BOBBY:

Oh no. Bear needs me. I grew up with him. He's always with me. What people don't know is that when they make fun of Bear they're making fun of me. Where's your bear?

KEVIN:

I used to have one but I don't anymore. I left it behind.

BOBBY:

Oh everybody's got one, just sometimes they forget about 'em, and don't take care of them. Who's taking care of yours?

KEVIN:

I guess I should be, huh?
(THEY FREEZE AND SATAN ENTERS)

SATAN:

Well isn't this interesting. God works in mysterious ways... I've seen him speak through dreams, through burning bushes, even through a donkey, but never through a retard before! How He loves the simple. Well Bobby, your words are falling on deaf ears. I am the master of this school. I am the god of this age! I own the others. They look to me for fulfillment, as they should. Lori thinks she can find someone else to fill that hole in her left by her father. And Gregg, I've made good use of his parents. They are modern day Pharisees. I've made sure that through their empty religion Gregg isn't even listening to God anymore. And Nikki, sweet, sweet Nikki. Little does anyone know the dark pain she is hiding. Where should she find love and acceptance and a model of God her Heavenly Father, I've made sure she only receives anger and violence. As simple and trusting as you are Bobby, I shall not let you light even a spark of revival here. I have plans for you too. You think the others are your friends? They are my friends, Bobby. And I will use them. You will not keep quiet about your God, I can see that. Therefore, I shall silence you myself. I'll take care of you my pretty—and your little bear too.

(LIGHTS FADE OUT, MUSIC UP WITH SLIDES)

SLIDES OR NARRATION:

The god of this age had blinded the minds of unbelievers so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ who is the Image of God.

II. Cor. 4:4

Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of Heaven."

Matt. 18:3