

Drama Ministry®

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A PLACE TO BELONG

by CAROLYN WILLIFORD

GENRE: Drama

SYNOPSIS: To raise questions and begin discussion on generational differences; to pose the questions: How do I identify? Can we exist together?

DIRECTOR'S TIP: Scene opens with William, Sharon, and Jared all on stage, comfortably seated or standing as if taking a break to think over an issue. After each character speaks and while others are speaking he or she freezes in a position that reflects his or her feelings and attitude.

TIME: Over 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 3

TOPIC: Christian Living

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Ephesians 3:20-21

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Easter

SUGGESTED USE: Easter

CHARACTERS:

William-Age 60+; he feels hurt and rejected
Sharon-Age 40; she is just this side of frantic
Jared-Age 24; he is eager and ambitious

PROPS: Chairs, if desired

COSTUMES: Contemporary dress, appropriate to character

SOUND: Three wireless mics

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: None specified

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WILLIAM: (Sighs heavily, then:) I just don't know how much more of this I can stand. All these unnecessary changes. Things were fine the way they were. Why can't anything just stay the same?

SHARON: (Hassled) Honestly. What a week. I've rushed my kids to swim meets, baseball practices, art classes. The truth is-like or not-this generation of kids is used to big events, exciting programs. So when it comes to church, it's just got to compete. Church like I knew it won't cut it. Things had better be pretty different for today's kids ...

JARED:(Eagerly, holding his energy in check) I did it. My friends were skeptical, but I got the job I really wanted. And now I can't wait to make changes. I've got so many ideas on how to improve our marketing strategy. And you know, I think we need to push toward the future. Yeah. I intend to make a real difference at work ...

WILLIAM: Work. Ha. I gave that company the best years of my life. And we were successful, too. Tripled sales while I was there. But now? Not good enough for 'em. So they're changing everything. And this computer stuff ... new-fangled ideas. They're not content with anything the way we used to be. I guess the regular patterns of our life were ... um ... (struggles for right word) ... familiar. Secure. And that was enough for us. Just work and family.

JARED: Marriage? Kids? Oh no ... not yet. My goals mean career first. But that doesn't mean I don't want friends. Or a group where I belong. You know, that's what I'm looking for in a church. I want a place that accepts me where I am now. Just between you and me, I think churches cater more to families. But they need to make room for singles like me. If today's church is going to reach my generation, that's what they'd better do.

SHARON: Speaking of churches ... Sunday mornings when I was a kid were pure torture. It was everything that it shouldn't be for children. I can remember these pathetic opening exercises-they called it that, like we were going to do jumping jacks or something. I wish. And after this boring Sunday school class was boring church. It was always the same thing. Every Sunday. Over and over again!

WILLIAM: How I wish just one thing ... just one thing could stay the same. And the changes at church, well, they hurt the most. Take last Sunday. We sang a ... a chorus, they call it. Never heard the tune before. Didn't know the words. Can't tell you how embarrassing that was. Been going to church all my life and I had to stand there while my own church sang something I didn't even know. Tell me, why can't we just sing good, old-fashioned hymns? Everyone knows the words to those old songs. (Shaking his head) But these new choruses ...