

COUNT YOUR DISHES

by MELISSA ZABEL

GENRE: Comedy/Light Drama

SYNOPSIS: A thankful mother counts her blessings while cleaning up after Thanksgiving dinner.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: The sink/counter set up can be made using two tables for counter tops with a cloth or piece of plywood stretched across and between them. The actors dip the dishes below visible level, behind the wood or cloth, to act as if they're washing dishes.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 3

TOPIC: Thankfulness, Family

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Psalm 68:5-6, James 1:27

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Thanksgiving

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service, Sermon Starter

CHARACTERS:

KAREN—a middle-aged woman

BECKY—Karen's sister

TRAVIS—Karen's teen-aged son

PROPS: Piles of dishes, dish cloths, sink/counter set up

COSTUMES: Modern day casual

SOUND: Wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A kitchen

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COUNT YOUR DISHES *by Melissa Zabel*

BECKY and KAREN are standing at a sink, after Thanksgiving dinner, washing dishes. KAREN washes while BECKY dries. There is a huge pile of dirty dishes beside them.

BECKY: Look at this pile of dishes. You'd think we had the whole town over for Thanksgiving dinner.

KAREN: With our family we practically did.

BECKY: Let's see. Mom, Dad, you, me, our husbands, our kids, Jeff and his family...

KAREN: Don't forget Uncle Jimmy.

BECKY: Nope, can't forget him. No matter how hard I try.

TRAVIS enters, carrying more dishes.

TRAVIS: Hey, Mom, where do you want these?

KAREN: How about in your hands, in the sink, getting washed?

TRAVIS: But I'm watching the game with everyone else.

BECKY: Everyone except your mom and Aunt Becky who are slaving away over the sink.

TRAVIS: Well, come watch with us and leave the dishes till later. Uncle Jimmy's trying to teach the dog to do the touchdown sign. *(He demonstrates)* It's hilarious.

KAREN: I think I'd rather do the dishes actually. *(She gestures toward the nearest pile.)* Just put them down there.

TRAVIS: Thanks, Mom. *(He puts the dishes down and runs out, yelling)* Hey, Uncle Jimmy! I bet he'd jump up if you held some turkey over his head!

BECKY: *(After a moment, introspective)* How long has it been since Jimmy started spending holidays with us?

KAREN: Oh, gosh, I don't know. *(Pause)* I think I was thirteen the first time Dad brought him home for Thanksgiving.

BECKY: That was a long time ago.

KAREN makes like she's going to flick dishwasher onto BECKY, who defends herself with the towel.

KAREN: Watch it, Sis.