

HAROLD AND GABRIEL CATCH UP

by RACHEL C. HOYER

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: Our response to God's messages is usually fear when it should be joy.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: While you are portraying actual biblical characters here, there is a contemporary flare to the dialogue. Don't worry about being "proper" or "overly reverent" with these characters. Portray them as relatable human beings and you'll stand a better chance of getting the message across to your audience.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 3F, 2M

TOPIC: Faith, Listening to God's Word, Trust

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; Matthew 28:1-8

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Easter

SUGGESTED USE: Sermon starter

CHARACTERS:

GABRIEL- the angel of the Lord

HAROLD - his fellow angel of the Lord

MARY MAGDALENE - follower of Jesus

JOANNA - a follower of Jesus

MARY - the mother of James, a follower of Jesus

PROPS: None needed (the women can carry spices if they want to, but it's not necessary)

COSTUMES: White robes for the angels; biblical robes for the women. If these aren't available, everyone should wear jeans, and the angels should wear plain white t-shirts and the women plain earth-toned t-shirts.

SOUND: Wireless mics if desired.

LIGHTING: General stage.

SETTING: The empty tomb—no actual set pieces are required.

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ANGEL GABRIEL and ANGEL HAROLD ENTER OPPOSITE, FRONT, and meet CENTER. Lights up on ANGELS.

GABRIEL: Do not be afraid!

HAROLD: I bring good news!

Both ANGELS crack up laughing at this inside joke. They are lines the angels have said countless times.

GABRIEL: Good to see you, Harold, my friend.

HAROLD: You, too, Gabe. Out delivering more messages from the Lord?

GABRIEL: Yeah. I love giving people God's message, but I ask you: am I really that scary? Why are they all so afraid when they see me?

HAROLD: Well ... no, you're not scary to me, but I'm used to you. Remember—you're Gabriel, man. You've been doing this a long time. But these people we talk to—they don't see angels every day. The whole bright light and flowing raiment thing is pretty intense the first time you see it.

GABRIEL: Okay. Granted, it's a little unnerving to have someone appear out of nowhere and give you a message from God. I get that. But God chose them to hear a special message from Him. Don't they get that? What are they afraid of?

HAROLD: I don't know, my friend. I don't know. *(Pause. He suddenly has an idea.)* Wait! I know! Maybe if we gave them a little "how to" presentation ... *(GABRIEL starts to react)* No, listen. This could work! Think back. Who were the people who really got it—once they got over the whole bright lights shock thing.

GABRIEL: *(Thinks a minute)* Zechariah? Elizabeth's husband?

HAROLD: No. Remember? He didn't believe you. Even after we tried to soften the message by having you show up in the temple.

GABRIEL: Oh, you're right. I thought the temple seemed like a logical place for an angel of the Lord to appear. Okay. So not Zechariah.

HAROLD: How about Mary? Didn't she sing a song or something?

GABRIEL: Yes! She was afraid at first, but she recovered pretty quickly. I attribute that to her youth—more willing to believe, more open.

HAROLD: I know—kids get a bad rap, but they're a lot easier to talk to than adults.