

Drama Ministry®

POINT. CLICK. ACTION!

IF ONLY

by TIM SHOEMAKER

GENRE: Comedy/Light Drama

SYNOPSIS: To open discussions with youth about self-worth.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: These are typical high school football players, but they aren't mean-spirited. They are taunting Brian because he lost them the game, but they're not nasty about it. Resist the temptation to make Greg a "geek" since he missed the game. He's just an average student who hasn't heard about the weekend's game yet. Have the actors playing Greg and Brian work together to establish the history of their friendship. Have they been friends for a long time? Is Greg the only friendly face Brian saw in the cafeteria? Adding this kind of subtext to their lines will help make the characters more real to the audience.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 6

TOPIC: Self Image/Self Esteem, Youth

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Matthew 10:30-31, Romans 8:17-19

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Any

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service

CHARACTERS:

Greg-A high school student
Brian-A high school student; football benchwarmer
Jeff-A high school student; football quarterback; arrogant
Tom-A high school student; Jeff's friend
Kyle-A high school student; football center; Jeff's friend
Cindi-A high school student; Jeff's girlfriend

PROPS: 1) Lunch bags (with lunch in them) for Brian and Greg
2) Tables and chairs to suggest cafeteria
3) Lunch bags for others

COSTUMES: Contemporary clothing appropriate to character

SOUND: Six wireless mics

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: The high school cafeteria

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The scene opens in a high school cafeteria. GREG is sitting at the table, eating his lunch. BRIAN ENTERS, holding a bag lunch. Unsure of himself, he sees GREG and hesitantly moves toward GREG'S table.

BRIAN: *(Without enthusiasm)* Hi, Greg. Mind if I sit here?

GREG: Go ahead. How ya doing?

BRIAN: *(Shrugs)* It's Monday.

GREG: That bad, eh? Lousy weekend?

BRIAN: *(Staring blankly into space)* My weekend makes lousy sound good. It was the worst weekend of my life. If only I could go back. If only I could relive it somehow. If only I could change it.

JEFF, CINDI, TOM and KYLE ENTER. CINDI is hanging on JEFF'S arm. TOM and KYLE follow close behind. JEFF notices BRIAN, motions to TOM and KYLE and points toward BRIAN.

JEFF: *(With a smirk)* Well ... if it isn't Brian McKlusky.

BRIAN obviously recognizes the voice. He cringes a little and looks miserable. This is the moment he's been dreading.

TOM: *(Chiming in)* Do you mean Brian "Football Star" McKlusky?

JEFF, CINDI, KYLE and TOM move closer to the table so they are standing right behind BRIAN and GREG.

JEFF: Yep. That's the one. Champion of the gridiron. Good ol' count-on-me-in-the-clutch McKlusky.

CINDI laughs.

GREG: *(Looking at BRIAN)* I take it the football game didn't go so well.

JEFF: *(Overhearing GREG)* Oh, you missed the game? Well, let me recap it for you. Picture this. We have a tied ball game. It's our ball on their 20 yard line. Billy Stanford is out with a twisted ankle. Gary Kuempel just took a hard hit. The wind is knocked out of him and he has to sit out a couple of plays. So the coach sends in Brian.

KYLE: Bench Warmer Brian?

JEFF: The same.

KYLE: What an opportunity.