

## LENTEN AMBLINGS

by BETHANY WALLACE

**GENRE:** Reader's Theatre

**SYNOPSIS:** Two teenage friends catch each other skipping communion outside their church and challenge one another to examine their guilt.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** This is a very heart-felt, sincere drama. A lot of the effect of the performance will come from the actors being as real as possible with their characters. One way to help achieve this is to have the actors play the other character in rehearsal a few times to get a sense of where that person is coming from; this will help endow their eventual performance with an honesty that they might not have otherwise.

**TIME:** Over 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 2

**TOPIC:** Youth, Christian Living

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Romans 3:23

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Church Service, Lent, Youth Group

**CHARACTERS:**

Pete—16 years old

Grace—16 years old

**PROPS:** Two chairs

**COSTUMES:** Modern dress

**SOUND:** Two wireless microphones

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** On the church steps

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*PETE enters and finds GRACE sitting on the church steps.*

*Two chairs are placed side by side to form a bench.*

**PETE:** Hey—what’s goin’ on?

**GRACE:** Too hot in there. I came out here to get some fresh air.

**PETE:** You know you’re missing communion?

**GRACE:** Really?

**PETE:** Really.

**GRACE:** It’s too hot in there. *(Pause)* What are you doing out here?

**PETE:** Proving a point—to my dad.

**GRACE:** What do you mean?

**PETE:** He can make me go to church, he can try to control my life, but I won’t let him make me feel guilty.

**GRACE:** Guilty?

**PETE:** Yeah, that’s why I left in the middle of communion.

**GRACE:** So, your dad makes you come here?

**PETE:** Yeah—if I don’t come to church on Sundays, my dad said he’d stop paying my car insurance.

**GRACE:** Sheez.

**PETE:** I told him this morning I wouldn’t go. That it’s my life and I’ll do what I want. He said, “Pete, I won’t put up with this. I thought that during Lent, of all times, you’d be able to think of someone other than yourself. Why don’t you try giving up something for awhile?” Fine, I said, I’ll give up church. That’s when he threatened to take away my car insurance.

**GRACE:** Well, he’s kind of right. I mean, lent is supposed to be about giving up things so we can get closer to God, isn’t it?