

# Drama Ministry®

POINT. CLICK. ACTION!

## SAME OLD ENDING

by JOHN COSPER

**GENRE:** Comedy/Light Drama

**SYNOPSIS:** An unbeliever watches and comments on a typical church skit about a family. The trouble is, this audience member didn't have a perfect family, and sees the skit – and God – as mere fiction.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** Transition from the skit on stage to the commentary fairly, smoothly, and simply. JAMES' tone is humorous at first, but grows darker. The actors in the skit should be serious but not melodramatic.

**TIME:** Under 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 4

**TOPIC:** Family, Relationships

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Romans 8:15-16, Galatians 4:6-7

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**SUGGESTED USE:** Seeker Service, Sermon Starter

**CHARACTERS:**

JAMES -- a man who grew up in a bad home

DANNY -- a loving father in a drama

LISA -- a loving mom

COREY -- a troubled son

**PROPS:** Kitchen furniture

**COSTUMES:** Church clothes for everyone

**SOUND:** Four wireless microphones

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** A drama set in church

### Drama Ministry

service@DramaMinistry.com  
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*A nice kitchen set is on stage. LISA sits at the table. DANNY enters.*

**DANNY:** Hey, honey. I came as soon as you called. What's wrong?

**LISA:** Oh, Danny, it's Corey.

**DANNY:** Is he okay?

**LISA:** He's in trouble.

**DANNY:** What happened?

**LISA:** The principal called me this afternoon.

*LISA and DANNY pantomime conversation. JAMES is heard over the speakers from off stage, but not seen, as they continue the scene.*

**JAMES:** What's this? Another drama about a family in crisis. There goes Mom and Dad, huddling to discuss their delinquent son. (*JAMES imitates the voice of LISA, as LISA mimes talking.*) Little Corey's been a naughty boy. They found a marijuana cigarette in his locker. (*Imitates DANNY*) That's not the boy we raised! I think we better have a word with him.

*LISA gets up to call off.*

(*Imitates LISA*) Oh Corey, come down here to see your Mummy and Pop.

*LISA sits back down.*

*COREY, off stage, dashes out the ashes of his cigarette and gargles Listerine. Then he enters. LISA exits. COREY sits down.*

And the intervention begins. First, Dad read the charges. Then the son pleads not guilty. (*Imitates Corey*) It wasn't mine. I was holding it for a friend. Ignore the glassy look in my eyes. (*Back to normal voice, as DANNY speaks*) Dad knows better than to buy the story. He knows his son has sinned against him.

*COREY speaks; JAMES continues narrating.*

Oh, listen to him. Poor lad just wanted to fit in. Everybody was doing it. He didn't want to be an outsider.

*DANNY speaks.*

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Ah, Dad understands. He remembers what it was like. Sure, they didn't have cell phones and email, but the peer pressure was just the same. *(Imitates COREY)* Oh wise father, I am so ashamed. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. *(Imitates DANNY)* My boy, you will have to face some punishment for your crime, but you are still my son. *(Imitates COREY)* Really? *(Imitates DANNY)* Of course. The God Allegory Father always forgives his prodigal son.

*COREY and DANNY stand and hug.*

Cue the hug, quote a little scripture, and all's well that ends well.

*The family freezes. Dim the lights on the family. JAMES enters in a spotlight.*

Same old story. Same old ending. They never show you the real story. The mother sobbing uncontrollably. The step-father beating the son with fists and foul language. They don't show you the bruises. You never hear the screaming. No one ever sees the out-cast son walking through the rain, hoping to find someone to take him in for the night. No one ever sees the real father who abandoned his child, not even the son. You never see those things, because they don't believe in them. This, this picture perfect world, this is what they believe in. Our Father who art in Heaven... Our Heavenly Father... What's the word you Christians like to use? Abba, isn't it? *(Shakes his head)* God the Father. I can't think of anything more terrifying.

*..... Lights down.*

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