A FATHER'S VOICE

By Dorothy Dunham
and Kyle Dunham

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PUBLISHED BY
ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY

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DEDICATION

To our late father and grandfather who truly showed what God's love was all about. A great role model of a father.

The Playwrights

STORY OF THE PLAY

You don't have to look any further to find material to enhance your Father's Day Program, for these two skits and monologue will do just that. You can use these individually or build a program around all three. "The Worth of a Father" takes place at Grand Central Station, where radio station W-O-R-D host, Peter Saint, is interviewing men on the topic of what it takes to be a good father.

A "Father's Love" monologue shows how God's love, demonstrated through a young soldier named Chuck, can break through and transform a cold-hearted sergeant.

In "The Dueling Dads," two men debate the motives and values of fathering in today's world.

THE WORTH OF A FATHER

A short play by Dorothy Dunham

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(7 M)

PETER SAINT: Interviewer, wears a nice suit.

RICH BUSY: Businessman, also a nice suit.

JOHNNY YOUNG: Immature, wears jeans, oversize T-shirt, baseball cap.

ARMAN STRONG: Macho man, wears tight T-shirt with some "muscle" saying such as "No Guts, No Glory."

LUKE WARM: Uncommitted, wears golfing outfit.

TERRY HART: Divorced man, dresses casually.

WILLIE STEADYMAN: Spiritual man, dresses very nicely.

Time: Present.
Place: Grand Central Station, New York City.

(AT RISE: Benches and chairs are placed to look like a subway station. PETER is setting up for a broadcast.)

PETER: I better hurry and get ready for these interviews, it will be rush hour soon. *(Looking through a bag HE is carrying)* Where is that microphone? Oh, here it is.

(HE pulls a microphone from the bag. MEN from all walks of life enter mulling around and talking to each other. PETER, holding microphone, looks at the audience.)

PETER: Hi, everyone! I'm Peter Saint, from station W-O-R-D, here at Grand Central Station, trying to find out from these men what it takes to be a good father. *(Approaches RICH BUSY)* Sir, may I take a moment of your time?
RICH: *(Carrying a cellular phone.)* Only if you hurry. I have some business calls to make before the train gets here.
PETER: Are you a father? And what is your name?
RICH: Yes, and Rich Busy is the name.
PETER: How many children do you have, and what are their ages?
RICH: Two, a boy and a girl. Let me see, Kevin is the oldest and he is...let me think...I think he is 10...no wait, he just had a birthday...he is 11. Renee is five. I'm sure of that because she keeps reminding me she's going to be six in another month.
PETER: What do you think it takes to be a good father?
RICH: A good father, huh? I'm so busy with my business I don't have time to think about things like that. I guess...giving them a roof over their heads and food on the table is how I'd answer that.
PETER: Do you ever take your children to church?
RICH: *(Looks at watch)* Church? Who has time for that? Now, I really have to run or else I won't get my calls made. *(Hurriedly exits, already dialing.)*
PETER: *(Looks around. He grabs JOHNNY YOUNG.)* Excuse me, sir, may I ask you a few questions?
JOHNNY: *(Very laid back personality)* Sure, I'm just waiting for my train and that won't be here for a few minutes.

PETER: I'm interviewing some men to see what they think it takes to be a good father. What is your name?
JOHNNY: Johnny Young.
PETER: Johnny, do you have any children?
JOHNNY: Sure do. For three whole years.
PETER: Do you have any advice on what it takes to be a good father?
JOHNNY: *(Gets excited)* The most important thing is to have fun. Life is a party. Children need to learn early to just let loose. Don't get hung up on deadlines and trying to compete in this crazy world. I say, easy come, easy go. Just work enough to get by.
PETER: Do you feel it is important for children to go to church?
JOHNNY: Church is on Sunday, which means it's on the weekend. That's the time for fun. I don't have time for church.
PETER: Well, that is an interesting way to view life. Thank you for your insight.

(JOHNNY saunters away. PETER looks for someone else.)

PETER: Here comes someone, let's see what he thinks. *(Stops ARMAN STRONG.)* Sir, I'd like to interview you if you could spare me some time.
ARMAN: *(Macho attitude, speaks loudly)* OK, what do you want?
PETER: I'm from the station W-O-R-D, and I'm here asking men what they think it takes to be a good father. Do you happen to be a father?
ARMAN: Yeah. I have four boys.
PETER: And your name?
ARMAN: Arman Strong.
PETER: Having four boys, I'm sure you want to be a good father to them. Do you have any advice for our listeners at home?
ARMAN: Yeah. Be strong, like, don't let anybody push you around. Teach your boys to stand up for themselves. Nobody messes with me or my boys.

PETER: Do you think going to church helps?

ARMAN: Who needs church? I can take care of myself and my family. I don't need church or God! Church is just for sissies.

PETER: I'm sorry to hear that. Thank you for talking to me though. *(ARMAN leaves. PETER looks around again.)* Let's see...who else can I talk to. Ah, he looks like a good candidate. *(HE walks over to LUKE WARM.)* Hello, I'm Peter from station W-O-R-D. Would you care to speak to our listeners?

LUKE: Sure.

PETER: Your name, sir?

LUKE: Luke Warm.

PETER: It's nice to meet you, Mr. Warm. I'm interviewing men on their thoughts of what it takes to be a good father. Would you mind sharing what you think?

LUKE: *(Has quiet demeanor, but speaks loudly enough for audience to hear clearly)* Well, I'd like to think I'm a good father. I guess you'd have to ask my kids about that, huh? On second thought...that might be a little risky. *(Chuckles)*

PETER: Do you think it is important to take your children to church?

LUKE: Oh, yes. If I'm not too tired we try to go Sunday mornings. That is also my golf day so if it is really nice I'm out on the golf course. I do need to keep my game up. I'm hoping to win big money someday. Then I could afford to buy more things for my family. My children would really love me then. Especially if I could buy them whatever they wanted.

PETER: Do you think that is what they really want from you?

LUKE: Sure, what kid doesn't want what this world can offer?

PETER: Well, I'm sure there are a lot of kids out there that would agree with you. Are you in church most Sundays?

LUKE: No, we just have too many other things to do. Sunday is a day of rest and we need to do some fun things. Sometimes my kids ask to go more, but I work all week and I need some time to relax.

End of Freeview

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