

**SKIT NAME:** The Truth About Step-Fathers

**TIME:** 30 MINUTES

**SETTING:** Takes place in the clouds of heaven.

**CAST:**

Angel: A wise and experienced angel who keeps watch over Earth.

Grandparent: A recently deceased grandparent who has a tendency to worry and doubt.

Uncle Fred: The grandparent's sibling, a friendly man with a happy disposition.

Aunt Sara: Fred's wife. Friendly disposition, but notices every detail—good or bad.

**PROPS:** Huge, white (paper) clouds pinned to auditorium curtains; with two large rocks (gray material made covering stools) placed center stage.

**COSTUMES:** The Angel wears a stark white long robe. The others characters are dressed in regular, everyday clothes that correspond to the current time we live in.

**BLOCKING:** The scene opens with the angel and grandparent standing center stage. Other characters enter stage-left and exit the stage stage-right.

## SKIT

**SCENE I:** An angel and a recently deceased grandparent have an intense conversation about the fate of the deceased's grandchildren.

Grandparent: (Frantically worried.) But I'm not ready to go any further. I-I-I want to go and all. It's like I told you. How can I go on to heaven and leave them down there in that mess?

Angel: (Patiently. Undisturbed.) It's like I have heard you human beings say many times. Each person must walk his or her path alone. (Slight pause.) So let's go. You're missing a lot of activities.

Grandparent: No. No, no. You've gotta wait. You've gotta understand. I was more than a grandparent to them. I had them so much I can say I raised them. They were like my own children. Every bit as dear, more dear in some ways.

Angel: And I understand. Children are a beautiful thing. Must be a very special relationship because Almighty God Himself desires such a relationship with you and your kind. God had one Son, but He desires many. So, I understand. (Tilts his head to indicate the movement of existing.) Let's go.

Grandparent: How can I go on? How can I be sure they will be okay? Cynthia was borderline, you know. She said she was going to put on Christ in baptism, but she kept postponing it.

Angel: Yes, I noticed that.

Grandparent: And what about Benny. He's so young yet and although he goes to church regularly, he goes to that public high school. I've seen those kids. They're a perfect example of negative peer association. Humph!

Angel: (Reprimanding tone.) Well, I know you taught him there was more to maintaining a Christian lifestyle than just going to church. I'm sure you saw to it that he was involved in the work of the church...so he could learn to respect it by seeing what the work produced.

Grandparent: (Whining.) See, that was the hard part about being a grandparent. It was hard to compete with afterschool basket ball, and because I wasn't the parent, I couldn't really make him go to youth group meetings or join the youth choir or stuff. (Slight pause.) And then, there was Cynthia. She is the oldest and so he always wanted to do whatever she was doing, and she was always doing all that supposedly exciting stuff. Like being in fashion shows at the mall. And she was a really good dancer, even though I never really approved of that hip hop stuff. Too much jiggling around body parts to me! (Shakes the body to demonstrate).

Angel: (Embarrassed the angel coughs.) I see. Well, let us just be glad the children's parents are still on Earth and will be able to assume the duties you've left behind.

Grandparent: (Anxiously.) That's what I'm the most worried about. The parents are terrible. The mother is my own child, and the Lord help her, she's about the busiest person on Earth. Never home. No time to clean her house properly or fix a healthy meal. The kids know everything about dining out, but nothing about fruits and vegetables. That job has her flying about here and there, and every where. Why she was out of the country last Christmas! She didn't even get around to wrapping their presents!

Angel: (Patiently optimistic.) I know. She felt really bad about that. But she was happy that she was able to buy both of them exactly what they wanted. She sent up a quick prayer to God the day she shopped and thanked Him for the blessing of being able to afford such extravagant gifts. (Slight pause.) But, since you've been gone she has had a change of heart. She's planning to work less, stay home more, and she has asked their father to pitch in and help.

Grandparent: (Clutching the heart.) Oh, no. Don't say that! I'm going to have another fatal heart attack. He's the worst! That guy is trifling. Besides—he's not their natural father. He's only a step parent.

Angel: (Continuing to be patient.) Yes, I know a little something about step-parents. God selected one for His Son when He sent Him down to Earth. Joseph. The Lord's stepfather was named Joseph.

Grandparent: Oh, I remember him. He was the man Mary married who couldn't even plan a trip that ended with his poor pregnant wife having a decent bed to sleep in. Did you notice he kind of disappeared from the Holy Story? I mean, the apostles never met him. After the Lord was about twelve years old, he just wasn't there anymore. He probably left. You know how some men are—especially if their not in the church. Worldly men just give up and leave. That's why you don't marry them.

Angel: (Surprised.) Oh, wow. That's quite a perspective you have. (Waving towards a section of the cloud.) Here sit down for a while. I want to clear something up before we go any further. (Slight pause.) First of all, Joseph was a devote Jew, a good Hebrew, and a direct descendent of King David up to Abraham and up to Adam, the first man. (Sighs.) Gee, would the Father-God have entrusted the care of His Only Son to anyone who was not worthy?

Grandparent: Well, I suppose not.

Angel: And, Joseph obviously loved Mary, or respected her a great deal. He went against the dictates of society and married her despite the fact that she was with child. According to Jewish law she was suppose to be stoned.

Grandparent: Of course, he married her! If a big ole' angel appeared to you and told you to do something, you'd do it alright!

Angel: (Smothering a laugh.) Gabriel is an okay looking fellow, I guess. Not so impressive. He looks like every other angel. But, I get your point. (Clears his throat.) However, that's not the reason Joseph obeyed God. He believed the angel and obeyed because he chose to. God never forces anyone to do anything. Joseph was a God-fearing Jew who chose to obey God.

Grandparent: That's just what I was telling you. If a woman with children marries a man who becomes the step-father she needs to make sure he's a God-fearing man or there is sure to be trouble.

Angel: I can't argue that that is not the best practice, but its not the only practice that works. I've seen humans work so small miracles—like marrying a person and by setting the example, they are able to bring the unsaved person to a knowledge of the Lord.

Grandparent: Listen—do you hear that?

Angel: I hear everything.

Grandparent: Well then. What is it? What do I hear?

Angel: Sounds like two Earthlings talking. Sounds like they're coming this way.

(Uncle Fred and Aunt Sara enter stage-left. Sara is fumbling in her purse and talking as they walk. The grandparent jumps to their feet. The angel remains seated and watches the human interaction.)

Grandparent: (Excited surprise.) Sara! Fred! What are you doing up here?

Uncle Fred: (Laughs.) Well, I'm surprised to see you too. But, I had every confidence I would end up in heaven.

Aunt Sara: (Closes the purse.) It's so good to see you! Good to know you're here.

Grandparent: If you're here, you must be dead too. I can't believe you died so soon after me!

Uncle Fred: It wasn't that soon after. It's been at least three years, wouldn't you say so, Sara?

Aunt Sara: (Folding her arms and looking at Fred with a reprimanding expression.) And to think that we'd still be alive if it hadn't been for Fred and his stubborn attitude. We moved into that senior living complex you always liked, and we were having such a good time. But no, Fred had to keep driving the car like he was a speed demon.

Uncle Fred: (Chuckling.) I've apologized for that three times already, Sara. Let it go. At least we died together. (He leans towards the grandparent.) Car accident. Head on. Scared Sara. Nobody was hurt but us.

Grandparent: Sounds awful, Sara. I hope your transition wasn't too difficult. But you say it's been three years. How did you leave things with the family?

Aunt Sara: You know it was strange.

Uncle Fred: (Interjects.) But good...

Aunt Sara: It seemed like after you died that Jenny...

Grandparent: (Interrupts. Turns to the angel.) That's my daughter. Jenny's my daughter.

Aunt Sara: (Continuing.) Jenny changed. Turned her whole life around, and then everyone else's life changed, too. Seemed like all the things you always wanted her to do she started doing.

Uncle Fred: Took another job. Less pay, but it gave her more time at home.

Aunt Sara: She started going to church more and she made Richard go too.

Grandparent: (Interrupts. Turns to the angel.) That's my son-in-law.

Uncle Fred: Then things really took off.

Aunt Sara: Richard got in with some of the brothers at the church. You know, he started hanging out with them. Next thing you know, they had him up in front of the congregation reading scripture at Sunday service!

Uncle Fred: He was good at it. Who knew!

Grandparent: Unbelievable!

Aunt Sara: No, its believable. God does things like that. He works things out. We can't see it when its happening, but He's there in the details arranging all the pieces...

Uncle Fred: Enough of the analysis. Get to the good part.

Aunt Sara: Okay, okay. But don't rush me. We have all of eternity.

Angel: (Standing up.) Actually we haven't even reached eternity yet. We're still here in what we call Abraham's bosom. We should get going because you are missing all the activities.

Aunt Sara: (Hurriedly.) Okay, okay. But let me at least tell you about the good part. (Pause) After Richard became an active brother in the services, someone encouraged him to start working with the youth. He was so good with the kids. And his own, that is Cynthia and Benny, were so influenced by him. They started hanging out at church more than anywhere else. Gave up the mall.

Angel: (Extends his arm, silently motioning them to move along.) This way, please.

Uncle Fred: And little Benny gave up on that gang he was trying to join.

Grandparent: (Shrieking) Gang?

Aunt Sara: (Matter of factly, but slowly moving in the direction the angel was indicating.) Oh yeah. That's another story. But, aren't you glad they were all listening to you when you'd talked. Including Richard. It's because of you that he turned into a real Dad. Once he told me it was as if he could hear your voice in his head.

(Fred and Sara walk ahead of the grandparent and the angel. The angel touches the grandparent's arm, holding them back for a moment.)

Angel: See, I told you stepfathers can be a good thing. After all, God created them too.

Grandparent: (Smiling, relaxed.) Yes, I see. All we have to do is make sure they are good stepfathers. God-fearing.

Angel: (Smiles brightly.) Always the best way.

(All exit the stage.)

THE END