

HELP, I NEED CHANGE! -a summation of Romans 7 & 8
by: Chuck Goodin

For Drama Troupe B (4 or more actors)

Directors: Be creative, make the piece unique for your group, and have fun. The stage directions are only suggestions. Feel free to add additional actors and reassign the lines to the additional actors as necessary, however "TWO" is the character who understands quicker and then explains to the others, so to avoid confusion use caution with reassigning those line. Finally, the main point is for young people to know that God helps them in their weaknesses and that He loves them. Therefore the goal is to present these truths in an engaging way so that your group and the audience will understand and retain them.

All the actors enter downcast, marching
in a line as if they are about to
collapse from fatigue.

ALL
(chanting in gloomy monotone)
Sin and sin, sin and sin-

ONE
Selfishness and pride.

FOUR
Anger and jealousy

TWO
Fighting and greed.

THREE
It's all about me.

ALL
Me, me, me - me, me, me

FOUR
(breaking from line)
Ugh! I am so full of myself.

ONE
(also breaking)
Me too.

THREE
(to the group)
What I don't understand is that I believe in God-

ALL BUT THREE
Right

THREE
And I want to do good-

ALL BUT THREE
Right

THREE

But when I go to do what is right-

ALL BUT THREE

(tentatively)

Riiiiiiight...

THREE breaks from the group for the following scenario with ONE.

THREE

(to ONE)

Hey look I have a gift for you!

THREE mimes holding a gift toward ONE.

ONE

(excited, crossing to THREE)

For me?!

ONE holds out open hands to THREE.

THREE quickly pulls back the gift.

THREE

Just kidding. I decided to keep it.

ONE slumps with rejection.

THREE

(to the group)

Something happens and I don't do the good thing I want to do.

ALL BUT THREE

(they all feel this defeat)

Right.

Short beat.

FOUR

(confessing)

Sometimes... I do things I absolutely despise.

They all nod guiltily that they understand.

FOUR breaks from group with TWO.

FOUR

(pointing at TWO)

Eww! What are you wearing?! Ha! Ha!

TWO

(sad)

Hey! That hurt my feelings.

FOUR

(to the group)

Ugh! I'm the worst!

ONE

Oh yeah? Sometimes I am mean to my Grandma! MY GRANDMA!!

They all give ONE an awkward look.
Beat.

TWO

But, I am thankful for God's instructions.

FOUR

Yeah me too.

THREE

At least I KNOW what is right.

ONE

"Love your neighbor as yourself."

ALL

Right!

TWO

"Honor your parents."

ALL

Right!

ONE

(sheepish to TWO)

And Grandparents?

TWO

Yep.

ONE

Oops.

THREE

"Love God!"

FOUR

"Don't lie!"

TWO

"Don't steal!"

ONE

Wait! Even though I KNOW what is right-

FOUR

You don't always DO what is right.

ONE

Right!

THREE

It's like sin has a force.

FOUR

Yeah, it's power keeps messing me up.

They all sigh.

ONE

I'm not a good Christian.

THREE

Me neither, I don't have what it takes.

FOUR

I need something more than just instructions and rules.

THREE

I wish I could do good all the time.

They all nod in agreement.

ONE

Is there anyone who can help us?

TWO

Wait! There is someone!

ONE

Who?

TWO

Jesus! The answer is Jesus!

FOUR

It is?

THREE

(whispering to FOUR)

Pst, the answer is always Jesus.

Surprised, FOUR thinks about this.

ONE

Are you sure He will help me? Because some days I do the right things, but a lot of times, I'm a bad, bad, kid.

TWO

Yes, I'm sure. We know that Jesus personally entered into our struggles-

ALL BUT TWO

Right.

TWO

And that He came to make all things right in this world.

ALL BUT TWO

Right.

ONE

Ok, ok, I am thankful that He died on the cross for my sins, but how do I change?

FOUR

Yeah, how do I stop being so mean?

THREE

And selfish?

ONE breaks from group with THREE.

ONE

(to THREE)

Are you SURE you don't have a gift for me?

THREE

(to ONE)

No, sorry, ...I ate it.

ONE frowns.

THREE

(to TWO)

See.

ONE breaks from group.

ONE

(walking in a circle, muttering
to self)You can do it. You can do it. Be nice to grandma, be nice to
grandma, be nice to Gran-(responding to an imaginary
Grandma talking off stage)

-NO!!! I SAID, I DO NOT WANT TO PLAY YAHTZEE!!!!

The others look at ONE in shock.

ONE

(grabbing mouth in horror, then
sheepishly to the group)

Sorry. I'll try harder next time.

TWO

Bad news... trying harder won't help.

ONE

(defeated)

Then what's the good news?

FOUR

(extremely eager)

OH!!!! The answer is Jesus!

TWO

Yes, it's Jesus. He will transform your behavior because He
can do what rules and instructions can't do on their own.

ONE

How does that work?

THREE

I know! Because He lives inside us!

TWO

That's right! He will give you the power you need.

(to the group)

Can't you see, our selfish sinful nature can't defeat our selfish sinful nature.

THREE and ONE freeze. It finally makes sense. They look at each other and then mime their heads exploding.

ONE

Whoa!

THREE

(amazed)

We need outside help.

TWO

Yep.

FOUR

So when you welcome Jesus into your life-

THREE

You begin to experience a new life --the way God intended!

ONE

Like loving my grandma!

TWO

Exactly. So stop it with that "try harder" stuff.

ONE

It doesn't work!

FOUR

But with God on our side, we can't lose!

TWO

That's right. God is our Father and we are His children. And if He died for us and now lives inside us, do you think anything in all the universe can separate you from His love?

ALL

No way!

THREE

He loves us!

They march out, with heads held high, chanting with exuberance.

ALL

(chanting)

He loves us! He loves us!

END. Alternate ending: instead of exiting while chanting, the group may exit while singing a refrain from, "How He Loves," or some other worship song.